美味しんぼ 17

雁屋 哲・花咲アキラ

ビッグコミックス好評発売中／

カムイ外伝（白土三平）……全20巻
白土三平異色作品集（白土三平）…1～18集
のたり松太郎（ちばてつや）……1～22集
土佐の一本釣り（青柳裕介）……1～25集
陽だまりの樹（手塚治虫）……全11巻
MW〈ムウ〉（手塚治虫）……全3巻
ドン〈極道水滸伝〉（本宮ひろ志）……全3巻
男樹（本宮ひろ志）……1～6集
魔物語（小池一夫・叶精作）……全17巻
あぶさん（水島新司）……1～40集
夕焼けの詩（西岸良平）……1～26集
浮浪雲（ジョージ秋山）……1～38集
釣りバカ日誌（北見けんいち）……1～22集
弐十手物語（小池一夫・神江里見）…1～44集
紅い芝生（小池一夫・弘兼憲史）……全6巻
人間交差点（矢島正雄・弘兼憲史）…1～20集
愛しのチイパッパ（北見けんいち）……1～18集
めぞん一刻（高橋留美子）……全15巻
ぼっけもん（岩重孝）……全14巻
軽井沢シンドローム（たがみよしひさ）……全9巻
傷追い人（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全11巻
瑠璃色ゼネレーション（柳沢きみお）…全7巻
わたしは真悟（楳図かずお）……全10巻
なぜか笑介（聖日出夫）……1～17集
ホットDOG（島本和彦）……1～12集
パラダイス通信（神戸さくみ）……全3巻
風のノブ（前川K三）……全7巻
利平さんとこのおばさん（法月理栄）……1～2集
像平新事情（六田登）……全2巻
1/2いっかにぶんのいち（むつ利之）…全2巻
ホテル（石ノ森章太郎）……1～9集
男の自画像（柳沢きみお）……1～6集
パイナップルARMY（土塚理弘・木村直巳）……全8巻
ブルー・ジーン（くじらいいくこ）……全3巻
F〈エフ〉（六田登）……1～11集
味いちもんめ（倉田よしみ）……1～5集
二匹のブル（瀬叩龍・岩重孝）……全10巻
明日カオ子（小池一夫・木村えいじ）…1～6集
あどりぶシネ倶楽部（細野不二彦）……全1巻
キスより簡単（石坂啓）……全6巻

装丁／海野一雄　カバー・フォト／菊地和男

美味しんぼ
17
エイと鮫
作・雁屋 哲 画・花咲アキラ

小学館
BCI407

BIG COMICS

美味(おい)しんぼ

17

エイと鮫(さめ)

作・雁屋 哲　画・花咲アキラ

小学館

BC1407

雑誌　45724—07
ISBN4-09-181407-7　C0379 ¥480E

小学館　定価480円

雁屋　哲 / 花咲アキラ 著作集

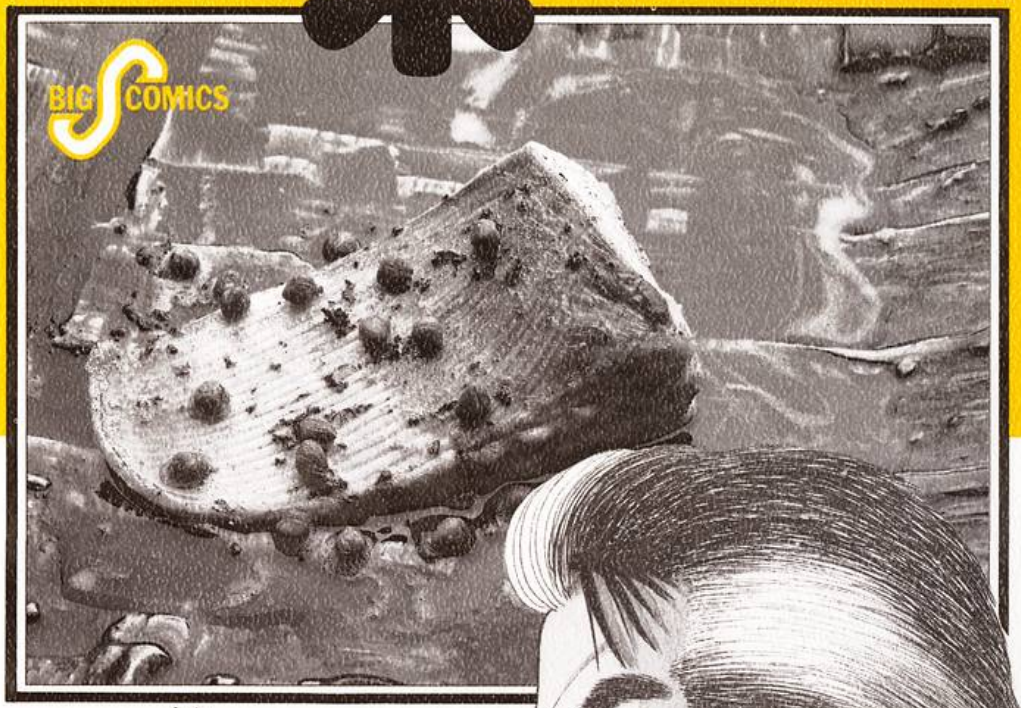
■ ビッグコミックス

美味(おい)しんぼ……………………… 1～17集発売中

ビッグコミックス好評発売中！

ミセスKに伝言（神戸さくみ）………全1巻
オレの奥さん！（はやせ淳）…………全1巻
HARD METAL（松本零士）…………1～2集
Cryingフリーマン(小池一夫・池上遼一)………全9巻
マネー・ハンター（玄太郎）…………全3巻
陶子（篠原とおる）……………………1～4集
パンツが大好き（よしまさこ）………全1巻
総務部総務課山口六平太（林律雄・高井研一郎）………1～5集
はっぱ64（山本直樹）…………………全3巻
妻をめとらば（柳沢きみお）………1～8集
YAWARA！（浦沢直樹）………………1～7集
ぼくの西鉄ライオンズ(長谷川法世)……1集
神の左手悪魔の右手(楳図かずお)…1～6集
土佐の一本釣り PART2 純平(青柳裕介)……1～5集
ボギー(やまさき十三・芳谷圭児)……………1～4集
踊る警官（浦沢直樹）…………………全1巻
冒険してもいい頃(みやすのんき)…1～6集
マドンナ(くじらいいくこ)…………1～6集
BROTHERS（小池一夫・叶精作）……1～5集
信長（工藤かずや・池上遼一)………1～3集
ALICE12（新谷かおる）………………全1巻
くどき屋ジョー（ジョージ秋山）…1～3集
極めてかもしだ(山本直樹)…………1～6集
博多新聞東京支社(長谷川法世)……1～2集
スローニン（吉田聡）…………………全4巻
寄席芸人伝（古谷三敏）………………全11巻
ＡＤ物語（国友やすゆき）……………1集
あんたの代理人（高井研一郎）……1～2集
アレルギー戦士（石坂啓）……………全1巻
トップはオレだ!!（とりいかずよし)…1～2集
萬川集海（小池一夫・神崎将臣)……1～2集
浦沢直樹短編集ＮＡＳＡ（浦沢直樹)……………全1巻
夢みるトマト（石坂啓）……………1～3集
ザ・ジュニア(神田圭介・叶精作）…1～2集
とっても医院(花井寛・みやはら啓一)……………1～2集
あべせで用心(西ゆうじ・長尾ともひさ)……1集
くのまち商店街（聖日出夫）……………1集
キャリング（石坂啓・堀田あきお）1～2集
釣りバカ日誌 番外編（やまさき十三・北見けんいち)………1集
出直しといで！（一色まこと）……1～2集
ツルモク独身寮（窪之内英策）……1～2集
家栽の人（毛利甚八・魚戸おさむ）……1集
赤い鳩<アピル>（小池一夫・池上遼一)…1集
グリンゴ（手塚治虫）……………………1集

美味しんぼ



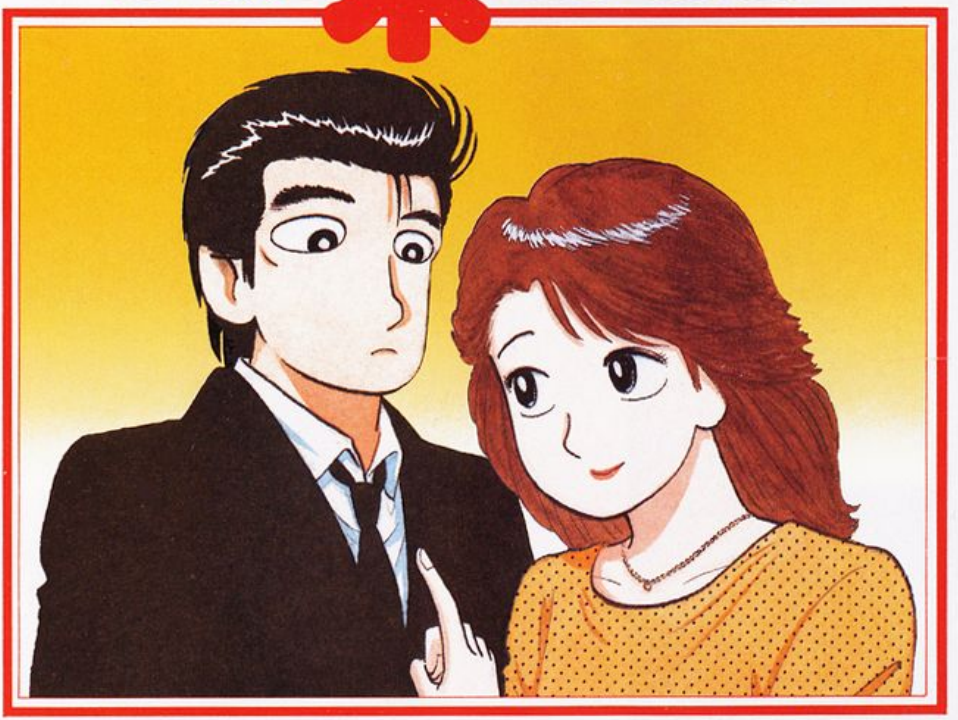
17 エイと鮫

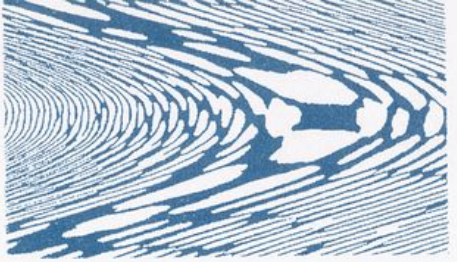
作・雁屋 哲
画・花咲アキラ

17 エイと鮫

Raie au Beurre noisette（エイの焦がしバターソース）調理/ドデュ・ダーンド。器作/高内秀剛。

美味しんぼ





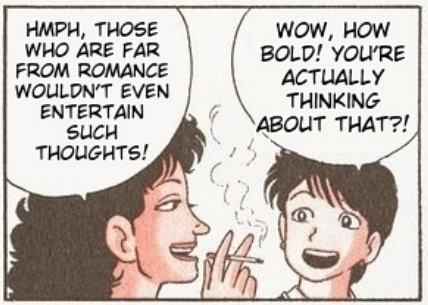
美味(おい)しんぼ

17 エイと鮫(さめ)

第1話　餃子の春(前編)……3
第2話　餃子の春(中編)……25
第3話　餃子の春(後編)……47
第4話　エイと鮫(前編)……69
第5話　エイと鮫(中編)……91
第6話　エイと鮫(後編)……113
第7話　代用ガム……137
第8話　贅沢な献立……159
第9話　海のマツタケご飯……182

第1話
餃子の春
〈前編〉

WE GATHERED TO BRAINSTORM IDEAS FOR A GIFT FOR OUR FRIEND WHO'S GETTING MARRIED SOON!
TODAY, WE'RE GATHERING THE FEMALE EMPLOYEES WHO JOINED THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER AT THE SAME TIME!


HMPH, THOSE WHO ARE FAR FROM ROMANCE WOULDN'T EVEN ENTERTAIN SUCH THOUGHTS!
WOW, HOW BOLD! YOU'RE ACTUALLY THINKING ABOUT THAT?!

WELL, I ALWAYS THINK ABOUT WHAT I'LL WANT WHEN MY TURN COMES AROUND!
CHOOSING A GIFT IS NO EASY FEAT, IS IT?!

OH! HAVE YOU FOUND SOMEONE SPECIAL?

2

SHALL WE GO OUT FOR A MEAL?
NOW THAT I'M RELIEVED, I'M FEELING A BIT HUNGRY!

BUT HEY, AT LEAST THAT MEANS WE'VE DECIDED ON A GIFT, SO I'M RELIEVED!

THAT'S EXACTLY THE PROBLEM! I WONDER IF THERE ARE ANY GOOD MEN OUT THERE?!

OH NO, YOU CAN'T! A GIRL WHO'S ABOUT TO MARRY SHOULDN'T BE WAFTING GARLIC EVERYWHERE!
OH, I'M SO SORRY! I COULDN'T RESIST HAVING DUMPLINGS FOR LUNCH...
THAT'S JUST GOING TO KEEP YOU FURTHER AWAY FROM A MATCH!
SOUNDS GREAT!
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO SAY IT, BUT YOU REALLY REEK OF GARLIC!!
HEY, YOSHIKO!
OH DEAR, BUT WE HAD DUMPLINGS FOR LUNCH TOO, DIDN'T WE?
SHALL WE GO FOR SOME DUMPLINGS?
JUST HEARING 'DUMPLINGS' MAKES MY STOMACH GROWL EVEN MORE!
3
LET'S GO, LET'S GO!
TOMORROW'S A DAY OFF, SO I DON'T MIND SMELLING LIKE GARLIC AT ALL!
BUT I WONDER WHICH PLACE HAS THE BEST ONES...?
I JUST ADORE DUMPLINGS!
NO, I DON'T MIND AT ALL.

DON'T FORGET, KURITA-SAN IS IN CHARGE OF CRAFTING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU.'

WOW, YOU'RE REALLY CONFIDENT!
IF IT'S A DUMPLING PLACE, LEAVE IT TO ME!

IF YOU TAKE ME TO A WEIRD PLACE, I'LL DEFINITELY COMPLAIN.
EXACTLY! I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN TO TONS OF AMAZING RESTAURANTS,

IS IT REALLY THAT DELICIOUS?
KNOWING THAT KURITA-SAN IS IN THAT LINE OF WORK MAKES ME WANT TO TAKE YOU EVEN MORE.

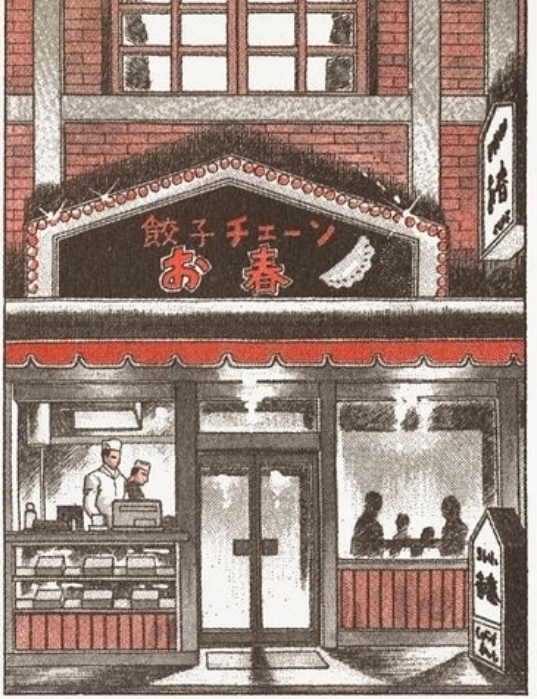
I'M NOT GOING TO ANY FANCY PLACES WHEN I GO ON MY OWN...
OH, COME ON, COMPLAINING? NOT AT ALL!

4

WHAT KIND OF PLACE ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

JUST COUNT ON ME!
NOW, NOW! LET'S NOT SPOIL IT!

DELICIOUSNESS AWAITS!



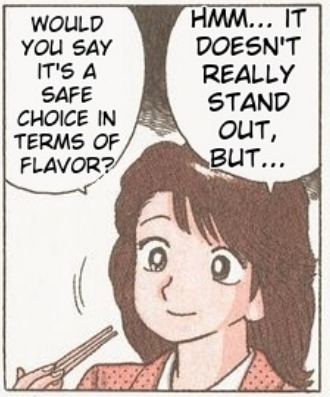
5

AT LEAST IT'S NOT FROZEN...
IT'S ACTUALLY BETTER THAN I EXPECTED!

YEAH, IT'S NOT BAD AT ALL!

6

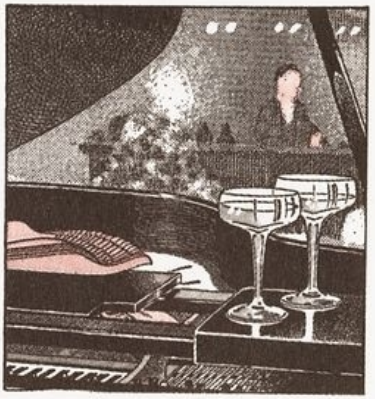
I'M RELIEVED EVERYONE DIDN'T GIVE IT A FAILING GRADE!
I FEEL PRETTY MUCH THE SAME.


WOULD YOU SAY IT'S A SAFE CHOICE IN TERMS OF FLAVOR?
HMM... IT DOESN'T REALLY STAND OUT, BUT...

HOW IS IT, KURITA-SAN?

DELICIOUSNESS OVERLOAD!!!

AND THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT...
SURE, MY DUMPLINGS AREN'T ANYTHING OUT OF THIS WORLD.



I'VE SWITCHED JOBS A FEW TIMES, BUT IT WAS WHEN I STARTED WORKING AT A LITTLE CHINESE RESTAURANT AT THE AGE OF 18 THAT I FINALLY FOUND MY GROOVE.
I HAD TO START WORKING RIGHT AFTER FINISHING MIDDLE SCHOOL.

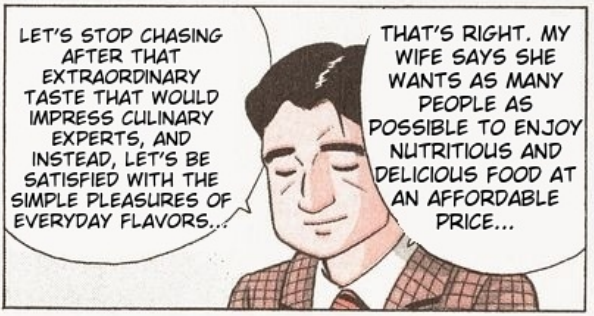
8

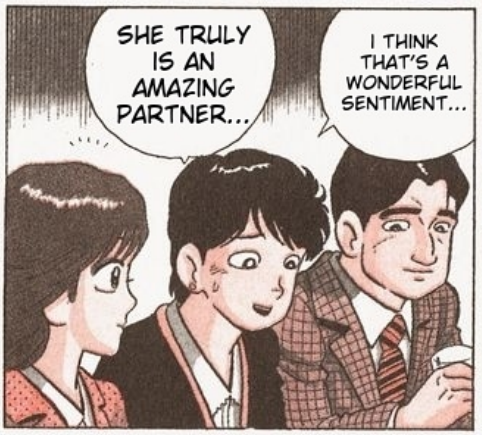
WE FELL IN LOVE, AND THAT SPARKED A DREAM IN ME TO OPEN MY OWN SHOP.
MY WIFE WAS WORKING THERE AS A STAFF MEMBER.

BUT THAT'S WHERE I MET MY WIFE.

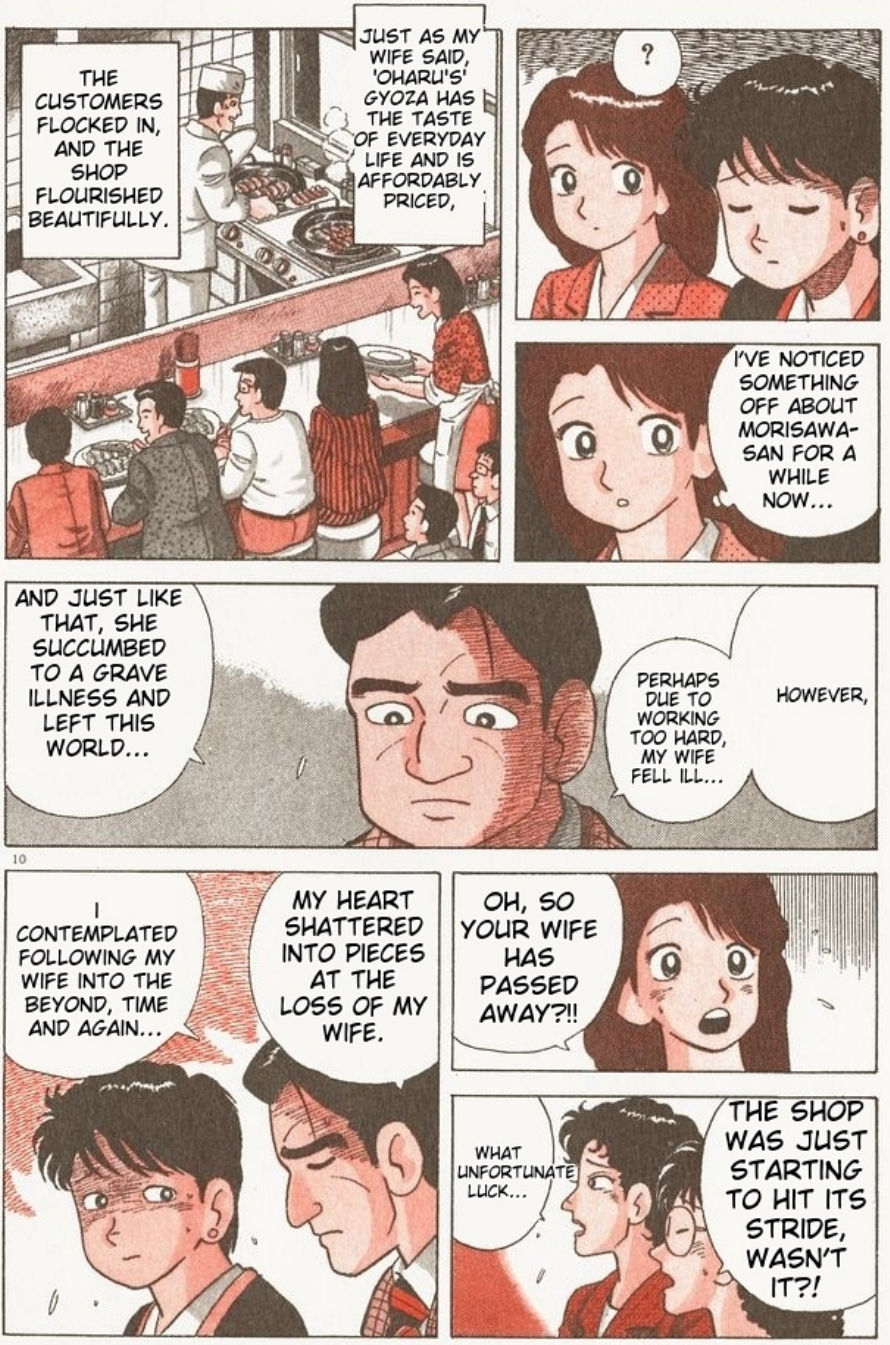
.....

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED, VOLUME 17!

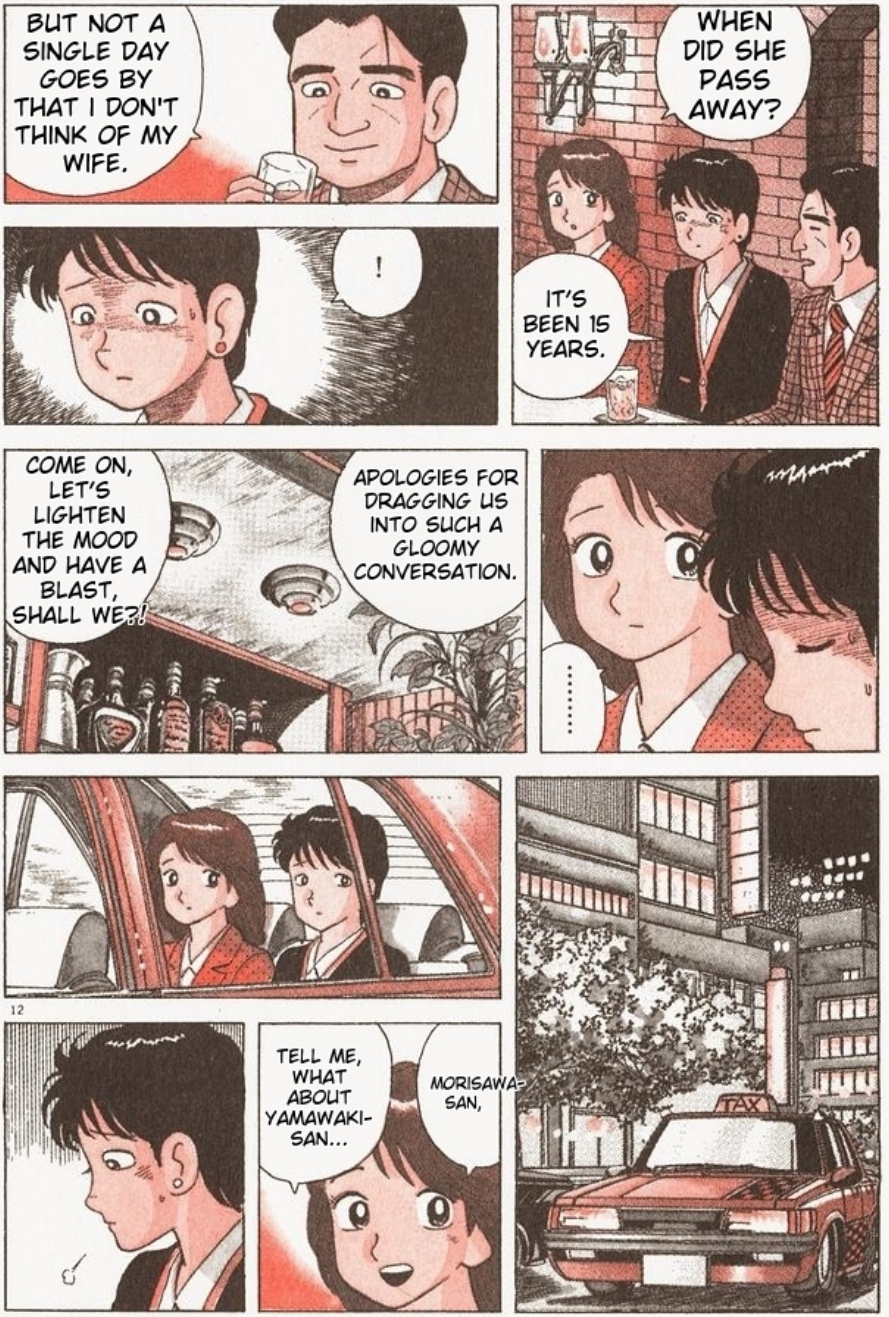




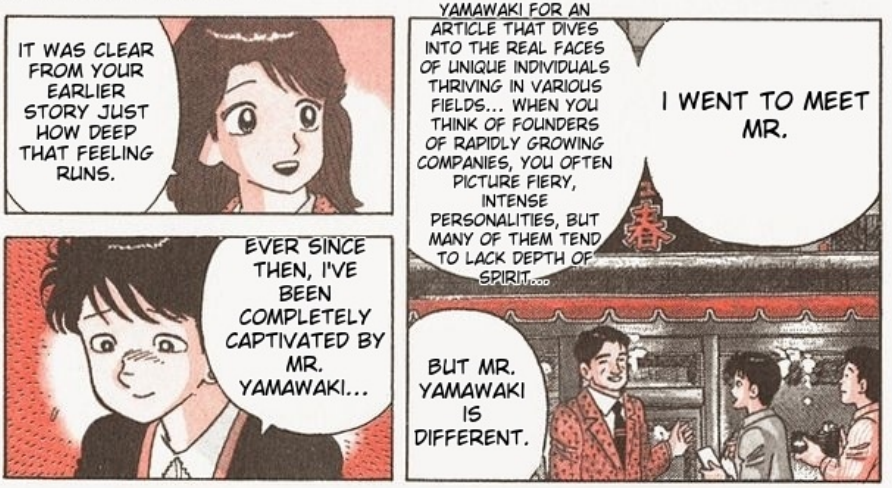
9

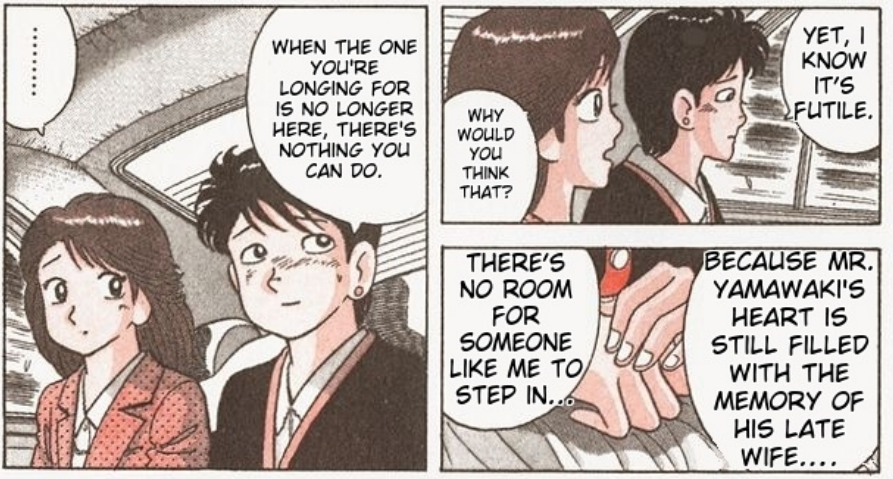

JUST AS MY WIFE SAID, 'OHARU'S' GYOZA HAS THE TASTE OF EVERYDAY LIFE AND IS AFFORDABLY PRICED,
THE CUSTOMERS FLOCKED IN, AND THE SHOP FLOURISHED BEAUTIFULLY.
?
I'VE NOTICED SOMETHING OFF ABOUT MORISAWA-SAN FOR A WHILE NOW...
AND JUST LIKE THAT, SHE SUCCUMBED TO A GRAVE ILLNESS AND LEFT THIS WORLD...
PERHAPS DUE TO WORKING TOO HARD, MY WIFE FELL ILL...
HOWEVER,
10
I CONTEMPLATED FOLLOWING MY WIFE INTO THE BEYOND, TIME AND AGAIN...
MY HEART SHATTERED INTO PIECES AT THE LOSS OF MY WIFE.
OH, SO YOUR WIFE HAS PASSED AWAY?!!
WHAT UNFORTUNATE LUCK...
THE SHOP WAS JUST STARTING TO HIT ITS STRIDE, WASN'T IT?!

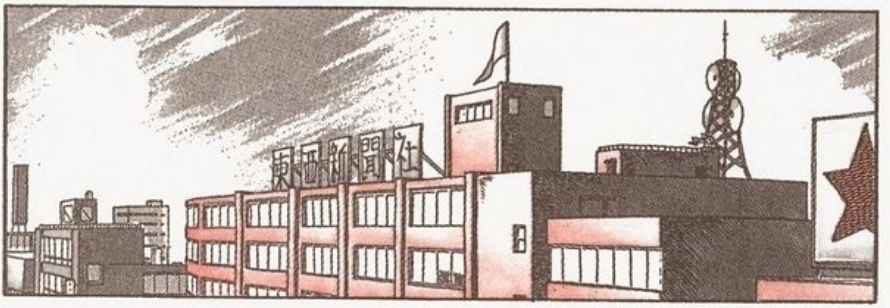
SO, I CAME TO REALIZE THAT MAKING THE SHOP FLOURISH WAS MY WAY OF COMFORTING HER SPIRIT...
IF I WERE TO PASS AWAY, THE SHOP THAT MY BELOVED WIFE POURED HER HEART AND SOUL INTO WOULD VANISH ALONG WITH ME...
BUT I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO DIE...
THEN WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF HER TOILING AWAY WITH EVERY OUNCE OF HER LIFE...?
THANKS TO THOSE EFFORTS, OUR SHOP THRIVED AND GREW INTO MULTIPLE BRANCHES.
I WORKED TIRELESSLY, FOR THE ONLY WAY TO DROWN OUT MY SORROW WAS THROUGH HARD WORK.
THAT'S PRECISELY WHY I COULDN'T LET THIS SHOP CRUMBLE.
MY WIFE'S NAME WAS HARUKO, AND I AFFECTIONATELY CALLED HER OHARU. I DECIDED TO HONOR HER BY NAMING THE SHOP AFTER HER.
WHEN 'OHARU' THRIVES AND EXPANDS, IT FEELS AS IF HER LEGACY IS BEING CARRIED ON...
THIS FLAVOR, CRAFTED BY MY WIFE, HAS BEEN OUR CORNERSTONE, MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CHANGE.
11
THEN, WHAT ABOUT THE NAME 'OHARU' ITSELF...?


BUT NOT A SINGLE DAY GOES BY THAT I DON'T THINK OF MY WIFE.
!
WHEN DID SHE PASS AWAY?
IT'S BEEN 15 YEARS.
COME ON, LET'S LIGHTEN THE MOOD AND HAVE A BLAST, SHALL WE?!
APOLOGIES FOR DRAGGING US INTO SUCH A GLOOMY CONVERSATION.
.....
12
TELL ME, WHAT ABOUT YAMAWAKI-SAN...
MORISAWA-SAN,
TAXI

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED, VOLUME 17!






東京新聞社

DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW ANYONE WHO'S AN EXPERT ON DUMPLINGS?
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.

KURITA!
OH, MORISAWA!

AN EXPERT ON DUMPLINGS?

14

COMPETE? OH, THAT'S A BIT MUCH...

SO, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO COMPETE WITH YAMAWAKI'S LATE WIFE, HUH?
IS THAT SO!

YAMAWAKI ASKED ME!
IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING, PLEASE SHARE!
HE DID?!

SNORE
ALRIGHT THEN.
BUT THIS IS MY CHANCE TO HELP YAMAWAKI-SAN!
THE SKIN IS CRISPY AND CHEWY... AND WHEN YOU BITE IN, THE DELICIOUS JUICE BURSTS OUT...
UGH...
DUMPLINGS, DUMPLINGS, DUMPLINGS, DUMPLINGS...
HEY, HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOZING OFF FOR?!
AH... JUST A DREAM...
HUH? HMM?...
THE UFO OF DUMPLINGS IS HERE TO INVADE EARTH!!
IT'S DUMPLING TIME!!

I FEEL LIKE I MIGHT JUST WITHER AWAY IF I DON'T DEVOUR SOME DUMPLINGS RIGHT NOW!
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?!

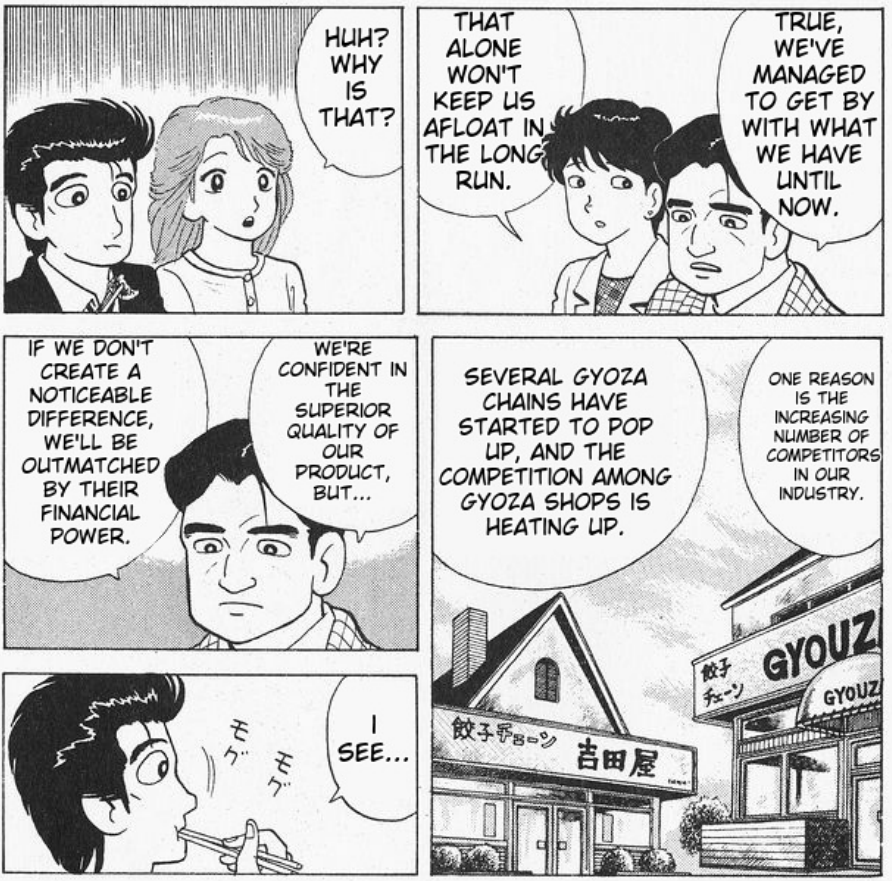
HMM... I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I'M SUDDENLY CRAVING DUMPLINGS LIKE CRAZY!
PHEW, I'M SO HUNGRY -AH!
グゥ～

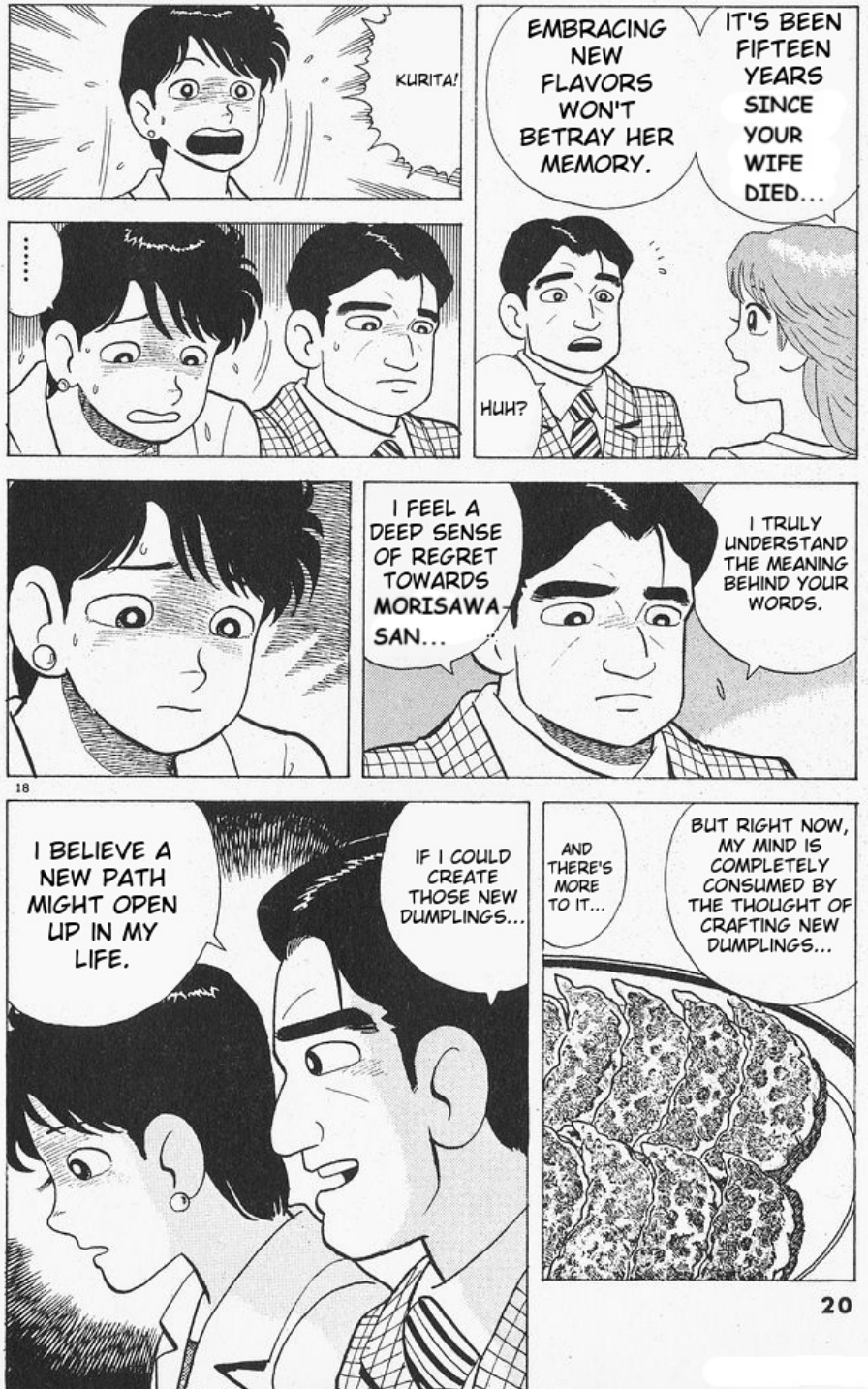
GYAAAAH-GEEZA!

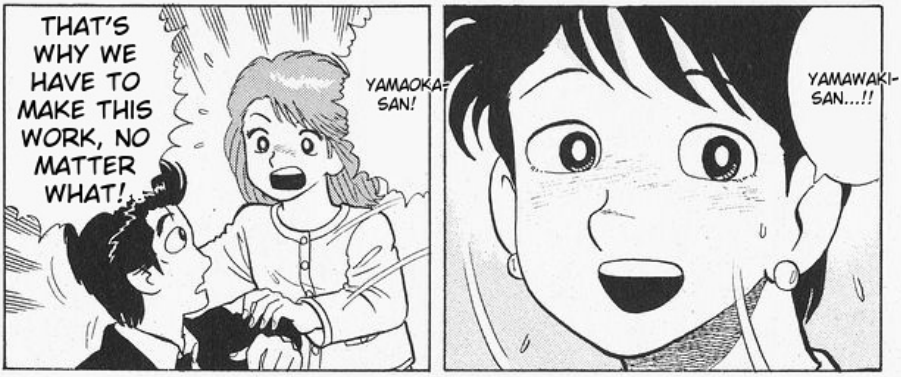
16

WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT'S QUITE THE RIGHT APPROACH FOR A PLACE THAT CATERS TO THE MASSES.
I SEE, IT'S A FLAVOR THAT FEELS JUST LIKE HOME...

餃子チェーン
お春


HUH? WHY IS THAT?
THAT ALONE WON'T KEEP US AFLOAT IN THE LONG RUN.
TRUE, WE'VE MANAGED TO GET BY WITH WHAT WE HAVE UNTIL NOW.
IF WE DON'T CREATE A NOTICEABLE DIFFERENCE, WE'LL BE OUTMATCHED BY THEIR FINANCIAL POWER.
WE'RE CONFIDENT IN THE SUPERIOR QUALITY OF OUR PRODUCT, BUT...
I SEE...
SEVERAL GYOZA CHAINS HAVE STARTED TO POP UP, AND THE COMPETITION AMONG GYOZA SHOPS IS HEATING UP.
ONE REASON IS THE INCREASING NUMBER OF COMPETITORS IN OUR INDUSTRY.
餃子チェーン
吉田屋
GYOUZ
17
I'M THINKING OF DEVELOPING A NEW FLAVOR OF GYOZA.
WELL, SINCE MY WIFE'S RECIPE IS OUR FOUNDATION, WE'LL STICK WITH THAT...
YOUNG PEOPLE SEEM TO HAVE THIS IMAGE THAT GYOZA ARE JUST BLAND AND BORING COMPARED TO BURGERS AND FRIED CHICKEN...
THE OTHER ISSUE IS THAT, COMPARED TO FAST FOOD LIKE HAMBURGERS AND FRIED CHICKEN, WE'RE SIMPLY NOT STRONG ENOUGH.


KURITA!
EMBRACING NEW FLAVORS WON'T BETRAY HER MEMORY.
IT'S BEEN FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE YOUR WIFE DIED...
HUH?
.....
I FEEL A DEEP SENSE OF REGRET TOWARDS MORISAWA-SAN...
I TRULY UNDERSTAND THE MEANING BEHIND YOUR WORDS.
18
I BELIEVE A NEW PATH MIGHT OPEN UP IN MY LIFE.
IF I COULD CREATE THOSE NEW DUMPLINGS...
AND THERE'S MORE TO IT...
BUT RIGHT NOW, MY MIND IS COMPLETELY CONSUMED BY THE THOUGHT OF CRAFTING NEW DUMPLINGS...


THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO MAKE THIS WORK, NO MATTER WHAT!
YAMAOKA-SAN!
YAMAWAKI-SAN...!!

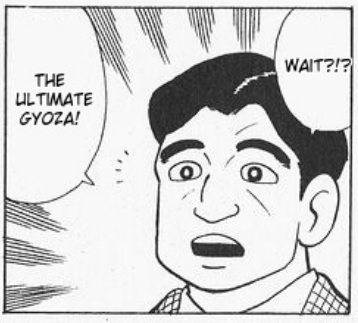
I'VE BEEN SO CONSUMED WITH EXPANDING MY BUSINESS OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS THAT I'VE BECOME QUITE NARROW-MINDED...
I THOUGHT ABOUT CONSULTING CULINARY EXPERTS AND FOOD CONSULTANTS, BUT...
WHAT ON EARTH...?
ハッ!

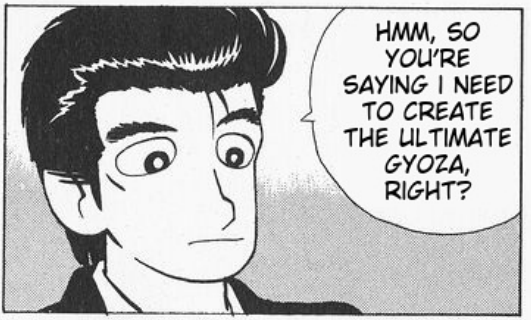
19

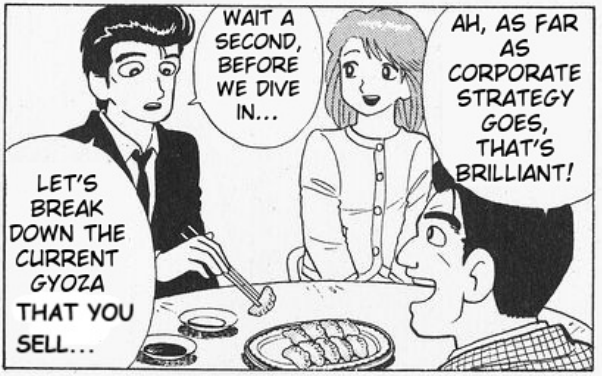
WELL, WELL...

HEY, WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO ASK ZHOU-SAN, OR WANG FROM DAIOU HANTEN FOR HELP?

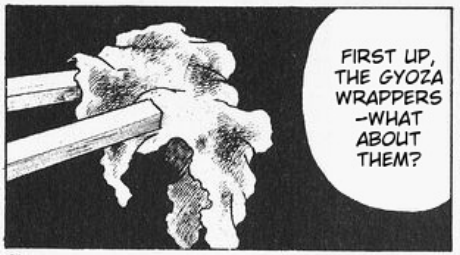
MORISAWA SAID YOU HAVE CONNECTIONS IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY.
HOWEVER, WHEN I ASKED MORISAWA-SAN, IT TURNS OUT THAT KURITA-SAN AND YAMAOKA-SAN ARE BUSY CRAFTING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU.'
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO INTRODUCE SOMEONE WHO KNOWS A THING OR TWO ABOUT GYOZA...


THE ULTIMATE GYOZA!
WAIT?!?


HMM, SO YOU'RE SAYING I NEED TO CREATE THE ULTIMATE GYOZA, RIGHT?

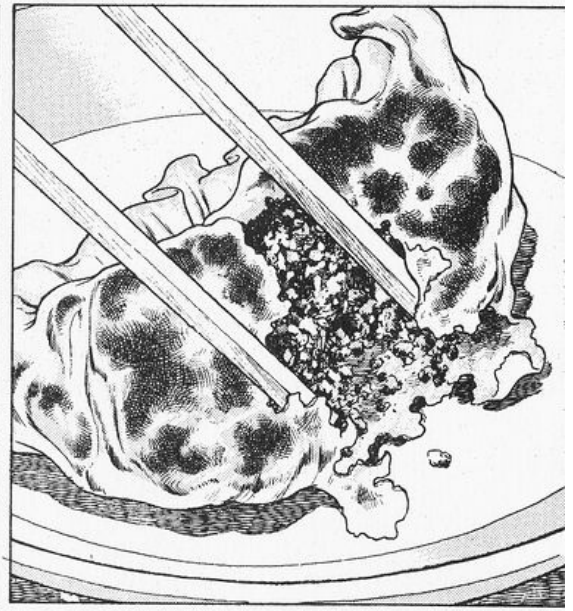

LET'S BREAK DOWN THE CURRENT GYOZA THAT YOU SELL...
WAIT A SECOND, BEFORE WE DIVE IN...
AH, AS FAR AS CORPORATE STRATEGY GOES, THAT'S BRILLIANT!

IMAGINE SELLING THE ABSOLUTE BEST GYOZA– THEN THE NAME OHARU WILL SOAR IN EVERYONE'S MINDS!


FIRST UP, THE GYOZA WRAPPERS –WHAT ABOUT THEM?

20

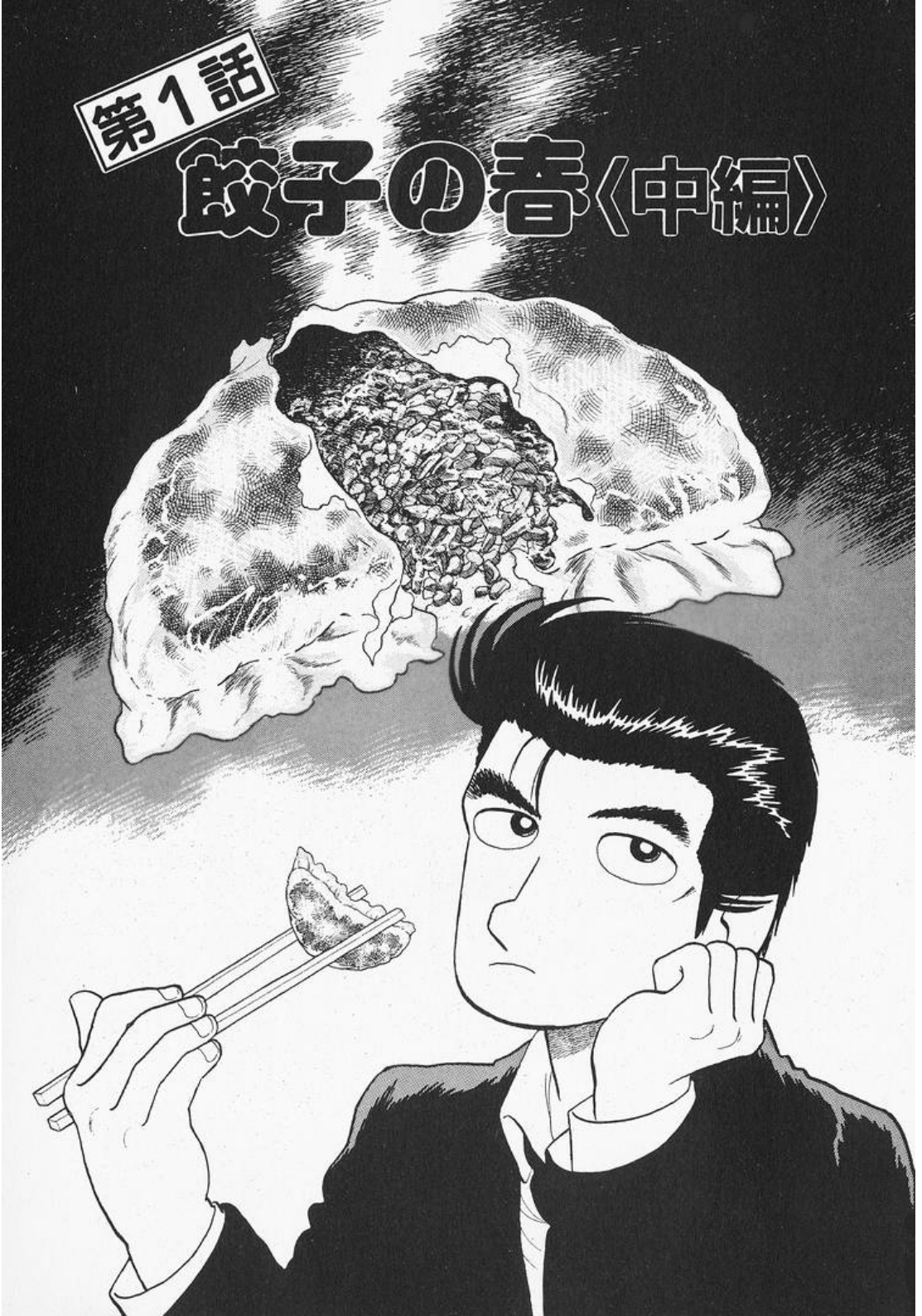
GOT IT! SO THE WRAPPERS ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PLACES' GYOZA.
ABSOLUTELY! WE SOURCE OUR GYOZA AND SPRING ROLL WRAPPERS FROM SPECIALIZED SUPPLIERS.



DELICIOUSNESS AWAITS!

YAMAOKA-SAN, PLEASE FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN HANDLE THAT.
DON'T BE SO DOWNCAST!
YAMAOKA-SAN...
CAN'T YOU WORK SOMETHING OUT...?
THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING ANYONE ELSE DO SOMETHING THAT EXCITING!!
ナニ
22
I'LL WHIP UP THE ULTIMATE GYOZA MYSELF!

第1話
餃子の春〈中編〉



YUKO!! YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN FROM GOING OUT TODAY!
栗田

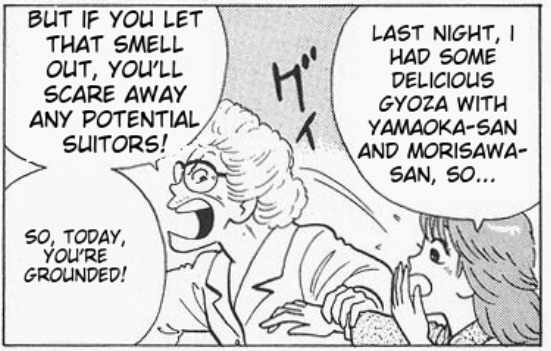
HOW CAN YOU EXPECT TO GET MARRIED ONE DAY IF YOU STRUT AROUND WITH GARLIC ON YOUR BREATH?!

I'M NOT JOKING, YUKO!!!
GRANDMA, PLEASE, NO MORE JOKES! I'M GOING TO BE LATE!

OH!

2

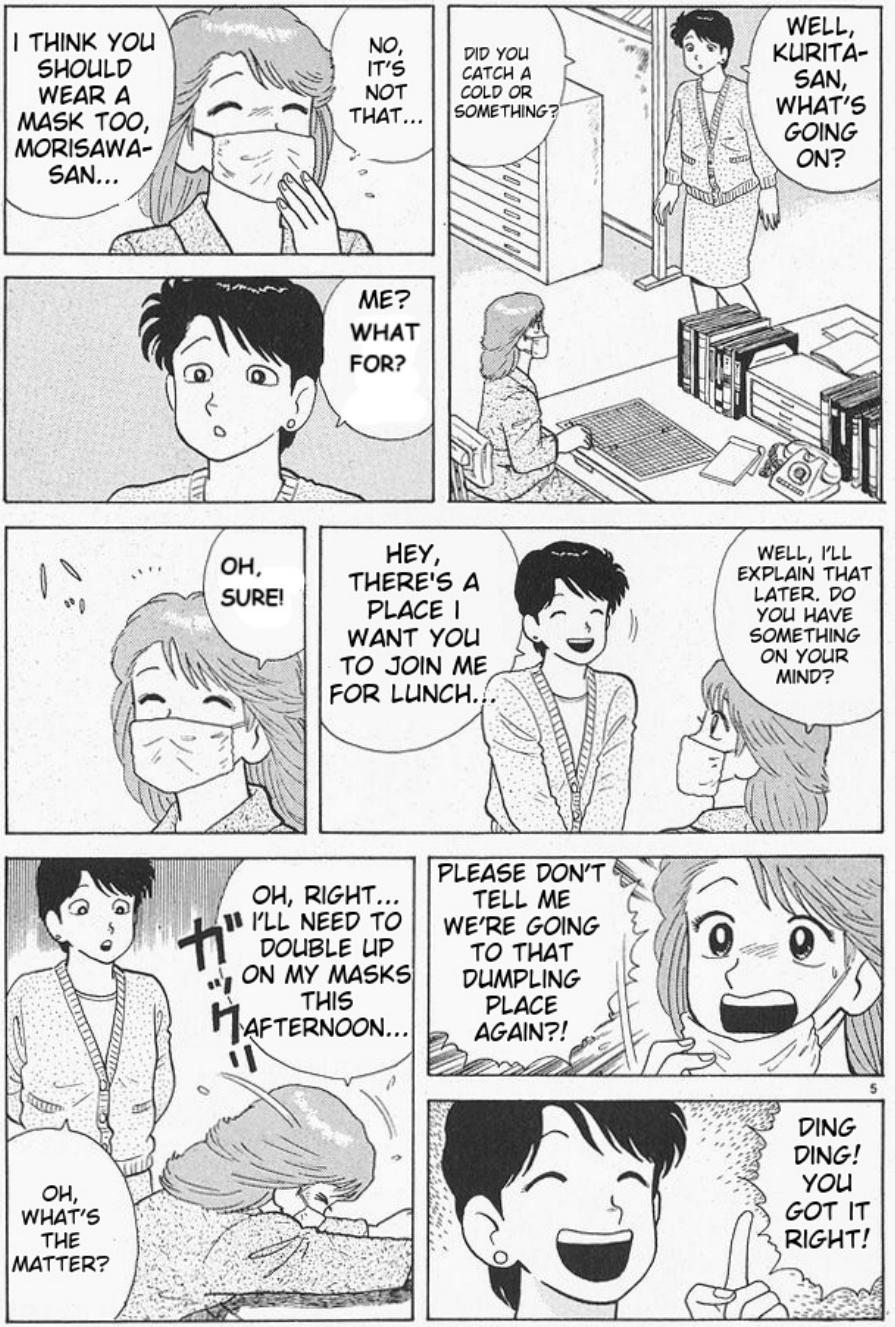
IF IT'S THAT PUNGENT, IT'LL KEEP THE CREEPS AWAY JUST FINE!


BUT IF YOU LET THAT SMELL OUT, YOU'LL SCARE AWAY ANY POTENTIAL SUITORS!
LAST NIGHT, I HAD SOME DELICIOUS GYOZA WITH YAMAOKA-SAN AND MORISAWA-SAN, SO...
SO, TODAY, YOU'RE GROUNDED!

急行
7014
HEY, YOU! WHAT'S THE DEAL!?
I'M OFF TO ADVENTURE!
EH?
AM I REALLY THAT SMELLY...?
IS IT JUST ME, OR DOES EVERYONE SEEM TO BE TURNING THEIR BACKS ON ME...
450
3
UGH~~, THAT STINKS! SO BAD!!

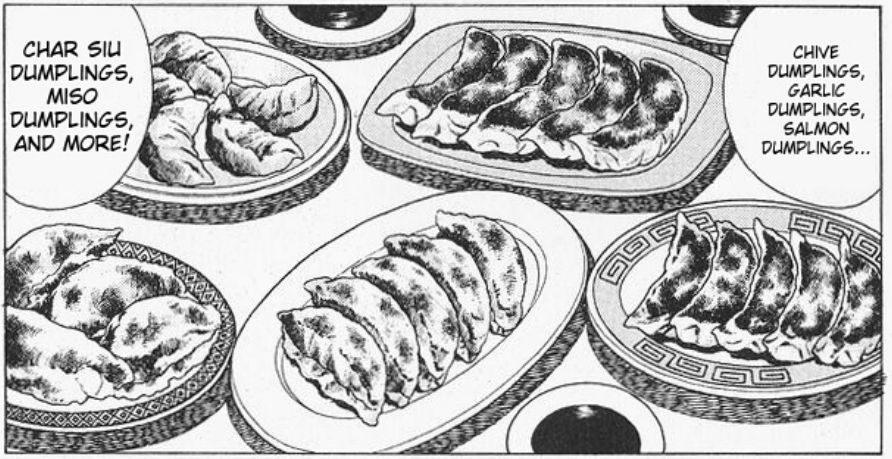
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN MEDDLE IN OUR PRIVATE LIVES!
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
JUST HOW MUCH GARLIC DID YOU DEVOUR?!
WITH YOU IN THE ROOM, THE WHOLE PLACE REEKS!!!
TRY PUTTING YOURSELF IN OUR SHOES, BEING ASSAULTED BY THAT STINKY BREATH! IT'S A TOTAL WORK DISRUPTION!
YOU'RE A WALKING STINK BOMB!
CUT IT OUT! IT'S UNBEARABLE!
GET BACK HERE!!!
YIKES! IT'S SO FOUL!
4
OH DEAR...
ヘナ
ヘナ

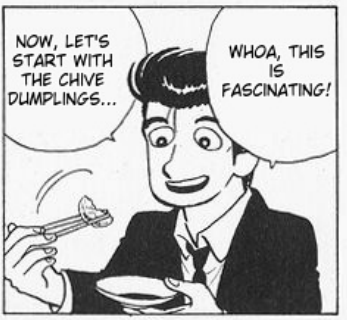
DELICIOUSNESS CHRONICLES 17



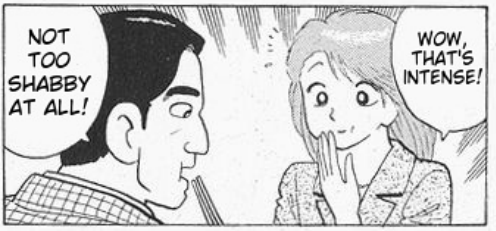
WHOA! LOOK AT THAT LINE STRETCHING OUT THE DOOR!
餃子チェーン
一本槍
A HUNDRED TYPES OF GYOZA, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
ONE HUNDRED VARIETIES OF GYOZA!
6
YAMAWAKI'S PLACE ONLY HAS ONE TYPE, AFTER ALL.
HAVING A HUNDRED VARIETIES IS JUST AMAZING, ISN'T IT?
THEY'RE OPENING BRANCHES LEFT AND RIGHT!
THIS PLACE IS REALLY BOOMING RIGHT NOW.
THAT'S A FIERCE COMPETITOR FOR YAMAWAKI'S SHOP.

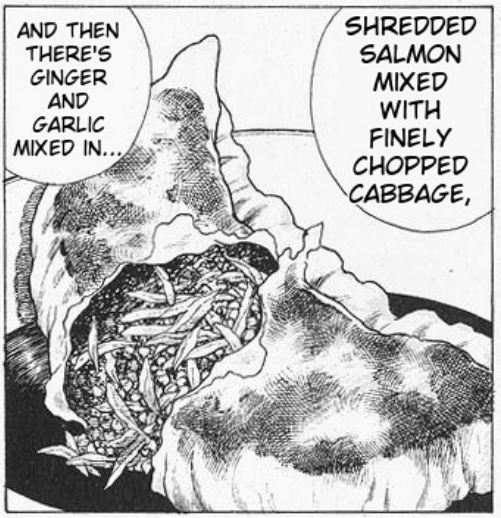
DELICIOUSNESS CHRONICLES 17



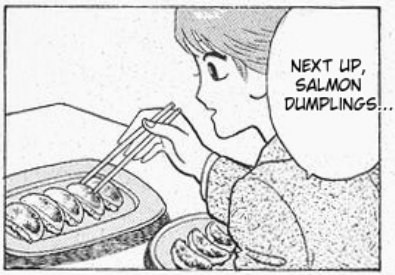


LET'S SEE HOW IT IS.
OH WOW, IT'S PACKED WITH MINCED CHIVES!


NOT TOO SHABBY AT ALL!
WOW, THAT'S INTENSE!


AND THEN THERE'S GINGER AND GARLIC MIXED IN...
SHREDDED SALMON MIXED WITH FINELY CHOPPED CABBAGE,

HMM, THE TASTE IS SIMPLE, BUT IT'S NOT BAD AT ALL.


NEXT UP, SALMON DUMPLINGS...

8

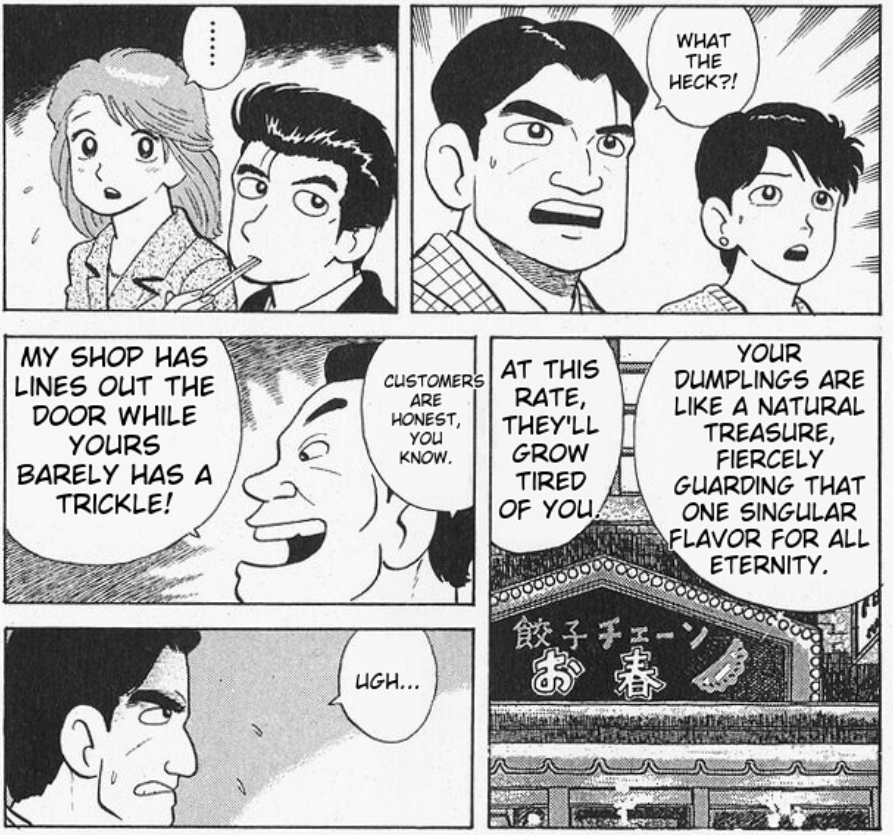
QUITE THE BRAINWAVE YOU HAD THERE...
BUT OH, THE SALMON AROMA WAFTS THROUGH THE AIR... I BET SALMON LOVERS WOULD BE THRILLED!

THAT'S A UNIQUE FLAVOR!
THE FILLING MIGHT BE A BIT WEAK IF IT'S JUST SALMON, DON'T YOU THINK?

DELICIOUSNESS CHRONICLES 17

I'LL PASS ON THAT!
BOOM! JUST GARLIC CHOPPED FINER THAN A WHISPER!
MY TASTE BUDS ARE ON FIRE!
WHOA-THIS IS INCREDIBLE!
ISN'T THAT YAMAWAKI-SAN, THE PRESIDENT OF GYOZA 'OHARU'?
10
YOU MUST BE FEELING QUITE THE SENSE OF URGENCY!
YAMAWAKI-SAN, YOU'RE PERSONALLY SCOUTING THE COMPETITION, HUH?
HEY THERE, PRESIDENT NIKODA.
3
WOW, SO THIS PERSON IS THE HEAD HONCHO OF THIS PLACE?

DELICIOUSNESS CHRONICLES 17



11

PEOPLE WILL GET BORED OF THIS IN NO TIME!
EVEN IF YOU BOAST ABOUT HAVING A HUNDRED KINDS OF GYOZA, IT'S JUST A GIMMICK, NOTHING BUT A NOVELTY TO SELL!
・ニラ餃子
・ニンニク餃子
・チャーシュー餃子 ¥500
・餡 餃子 ¥550
・ミソ餃子 ¥500
¥450
CELERY IS A... UM, NEVER MIND...
I'M NOT JOKING! THERE'S NOTHING WORTH STEALING FROM YOU!
ガヲ
HMPH, SO THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL DEVELOPMENT? SNEAKING IN TO STEAL OUR TASTE?
WE CAN INNOVATE JUST AS WELL AS YOU CAN!
WELL, WHILE YOU'RE STILL CATCHING UP, WE'LL BE BUSY CREATING NEW GYOZA!
OH, LOOK WHO'S TALKING! YOUR GYOZA HAS LONG BEEN FORGOTTEN, BUT HERE YOU ARE, ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY!
THIS IS A COMPETITION YOU CAN'T WIN.
HOW RUDE! YOUR ARROGANCE KNOWS NO BOUNDS!
12
I'M HERE TO FIND OUT JUST HOW MUCH YOU'VE COPIED OUR FLAVOR!
HEH HEH, OF COURSE I'LL BE JOINING YOU!
WE'RE LAUNCHING OUR OWN NEW GYOZA SOON! WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'LL INVITE YOU, SO MAKE SURE TO COME AND TASTE IT!!

DELICIOUSNESS CHRONICLES 17

WELL, THIS IS QUITE UNEXPECTED.
SHIRO!

AH.
SORRY, SHIRO, I MUST TAKE MY LEAVE NOW.

14

ﾜﾅﾅ"

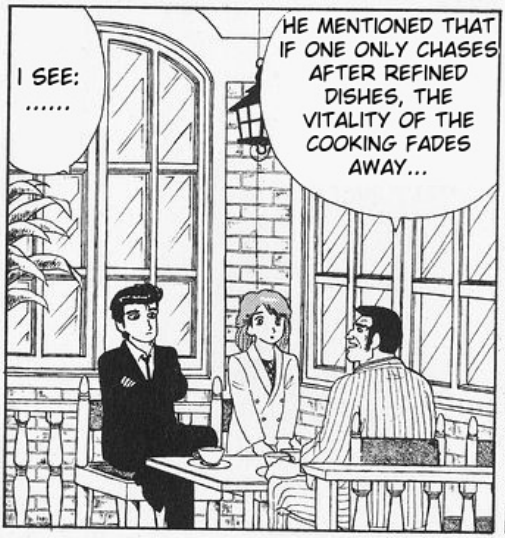
Y-YES, SORRY, SENSEI.
NAKAGAWA, WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?!

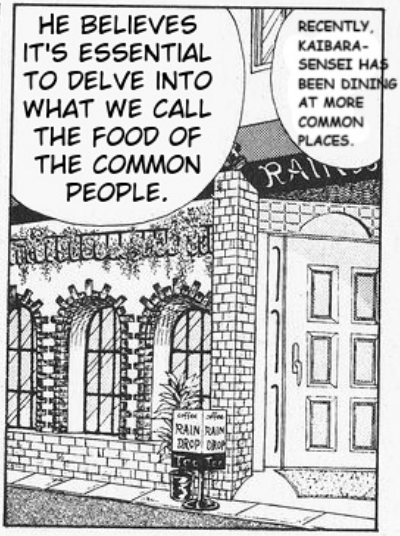
DELICIOUSNESS CHRONICLES 17

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING THIS, BUT TO THINK HE WOULD VISIT A HUMBLE DUMPLING SHOP!
I THOUGHT HE ONLY DINED AT HIGH-END RESTAURANTS.
YES, INDEED.
ISN'T THAT THE ILLUSTRIOUS CHEF KAIBARA YUZAN HIMSELF?
JUST BECAUSE YUZAN VISITED THIS PLACE DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING AT ALL!!!
YOUR PLACE ISN'T NECESSARILY INFERIOR!
BUT IF HE COULD GAIN THE APPROVAL OF KAIBARA YUZAN, IT WOULD BE A GAME CHANGER!
DON'T GET CAUGHT UP IN SUCH LOFTY TRADITIONS; YOU MUST DEVOUR DELICIOUSNESS WITH UNRESTRAINED ZEAL.
THAT'S THE REMARKABLE THING ABOUT KAIBARA YUZAN...
SO, THE PREEMINENT CULINARY CONNOISSEUR OF OUR TIME HAS TAKEN A LIKING TO THIS PLACE.
MY SHOP MUST BE INFERIOR...
16
PLEASE, YAMAOKA-SAN!
PLEASE LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH!
I TOO WANT TO CRAFT DUMPLINGS THAT WOULD EARN THE RECOGNITION OF CHEF KAIBARA.

EVERYTHING'S PRETTY DECENT, REALLY.
一本槍
100種類の
WELL, IT MAY BE AN ODDITY, BUT THE TASTE ISN'T BAD AT ALL.
YAMAWAKI SAID THAT 100 VARIETIES OF DUMPLINGS ARE JUST A GIMMICK FOR NOVELTY... BUT THAT'S 30% RIGHT AND 70% WRONG.
A MOMENT AGO, MR.
HUH?!?!
PLEASE!
YAMAOKA-SAN, YOU PROMISED TO CREATE THE ULTIMATE DUMPLING, DIDN'T YOU?
AFTER ALL, IT RISKS BEING SEEN AS A MERE IMITATION OF THE 100 VARIETY STYLE.
SO, DEVELOPING A DUMPLING THAT SURPASSES THIS PLACE IS QUITE THE CHALLENGE.
NOW THAT KAIBARA YUZAN IS INVOLVED, YOU CAN'T BACK DOWN!
YAMAOKA-SAN!
UGH, HMM...
17
FINE.
DAMN IT... ALWAYS PUSHING PEOPLE LIKE THIS...

ACE


I SEE:
.....
HE MENTIONED THAT IF ONE ONLY CHASES AFTER REFINED DISHES, THE VITALITY OF THE COOKING FADES AWAY...


HE BELIEVES IT'S ESSENTIAL TO DELVE INTO WHAT WE CALL THE FOOD OF THE COMMON PEOPLE.
RECENTLY, KAIBARA-SENSEI HAS BEEN DINING AT MORE COMMON PLACES.
RAIN DROP
RAIN DROP

SO, WHAT DOES THE LEGENDARY KAIBARA YUUZAN THINK OF THE GYOZA FROM 100 VARIETIES?

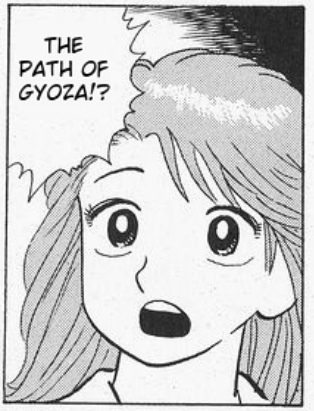
18

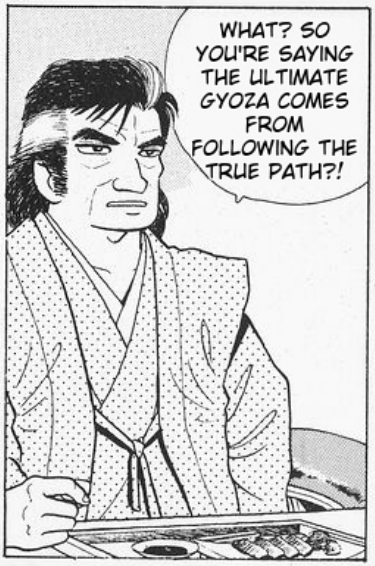
HE SEEMED TO FIND IT ALL QUITE AMUSING.

WHEN HE ELEVATED IT INTO A FORM CLOSE TO ART, IT INFUSED KAISEKI WITH A WHOLE NEW VIBRANCY.
IN KAISEKI, HE PREPARED OCTOPUS SO TENDER IT PRACTICALLY MELTED IN THE MOUTH, YET THAT WAS ORIGINALLY SEEN AS A HUMBLE FARE, FAR FROM ELEGANT.

IT'S QUITE AMUSING, REALLY, THAT THEY EVEN HAVE SOMETHING AS QUIRKY AS NATTO GYOZA ON THE MENU...
ESPECIALLY THAT 'ONE-SPEAR' GYOZA WITH ITS HUNDRED DIFFERENT TYPES—IT'S TRULY A MARVEL OF CULINARY CREATIVITY.
THEY SAY THAT BY WRAPPING VARIOUS FILLINGS IN A SINGLE SKIN, A COMPLETELY NEW FLAVOR EXPERIENCE IS BORN.
WHAT? DISCONTENT?
HOWEVER, THERE'S A SENSE OF DISCONTENT...
HMM... ARE YOU SAYING SOMETHING CRUCIAL IS MISSING?!
INDEED, A VITAL FLAVOR SEEMS TO BE MISSING...
YES, YOU MENTIONED THERE'S SOMETHING JUST A TAD LACKING.
19
.....
DEFINITIVE SATISFACTION, YOU SAY...
AND WHILE THERE ARE A HUNDRED VARIETIES AND A MULTITUDE OF FLAVORS, THERE'S STILL A CERTAIN WEIGHTY, DEFINITIVE SATISFACTION THAT ELUDES US.

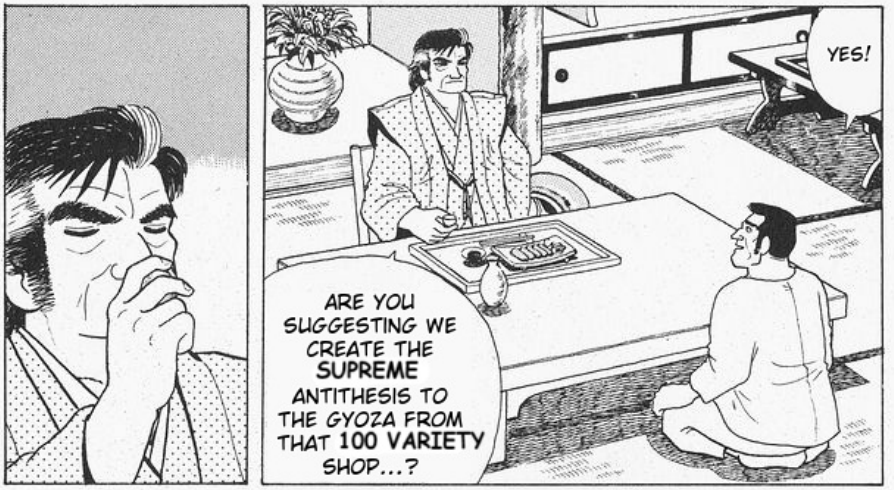
THE ULTIMATE GYOZA IS CRAFTED BY WALKING THE TRUE PATH OF GYOZA... OR THE ROYAL ROAD OF GYOZA, THAT'S HOW IT'S DONE!
MY HEART IS SET NOW.

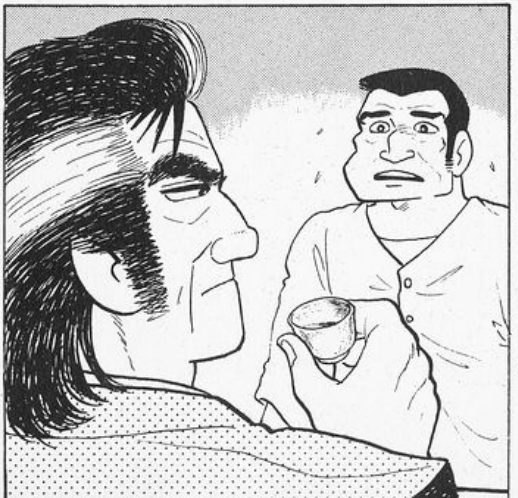

THE PATH OF GYOZA!?

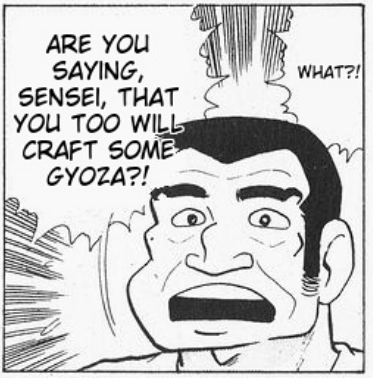

WHAT? SO YOU'RE SAYING THE ULTIMATE GYOZA COMES FROM FOLLOWING THE TRUE PATH?!

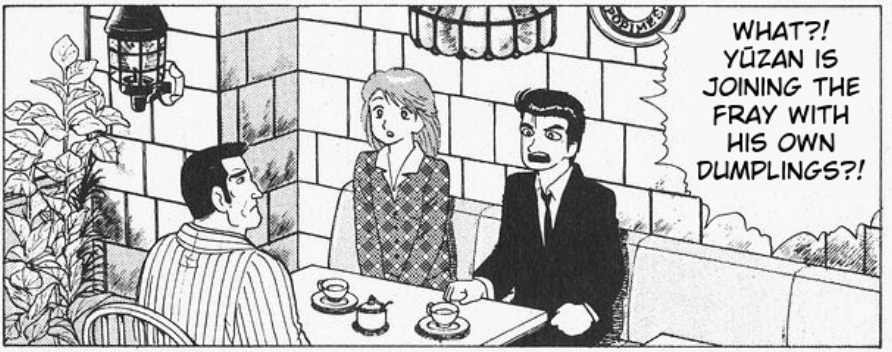
美食倶楽部

DELICIOUSNESS CHRONICLES 17

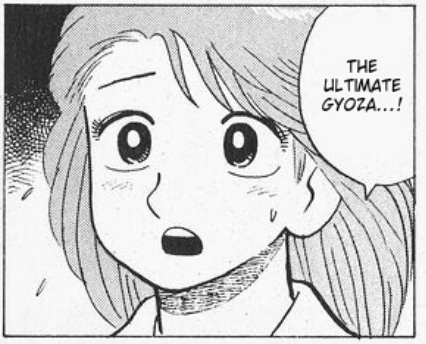




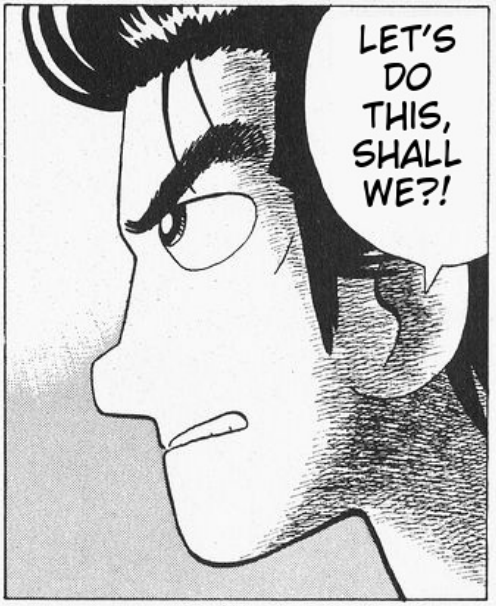


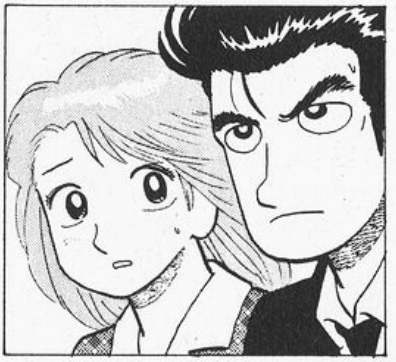

WHAT?! YŪZAN IS JOINING THE FRAY WITH HIS OWN DUMPLINGS?!

IT'S TURNED INTO A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN ME AND YŪZAN...
THE CLASH OF 'GYOZA OHARU' AND 'GYOZA IPPON YARI' IS UPON US-

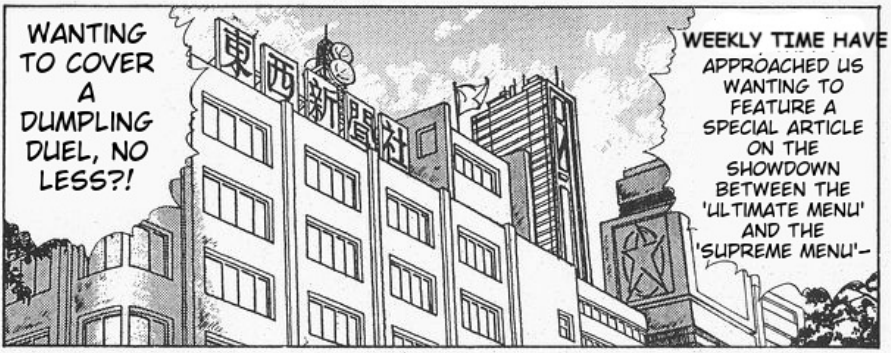

THE ULTIMATE GYOZA...!

22

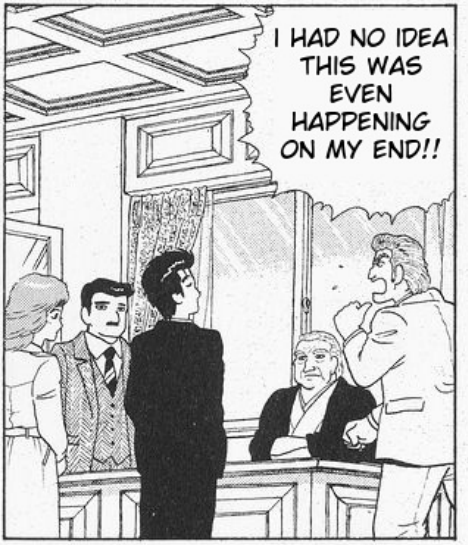

LET'S DO THIS, SHALL WE?!

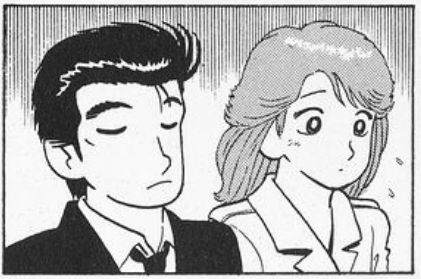


第1話
餃子の春
〈後編〉


WANTING TO COVER A DUMPLING DUEL, NO LESS?!
東西新聞社
WEEKLY TIME HAVE APPROACHED US WANTING TO FEATURE A SPECIAL ARTICLE ON THE SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AND THE 'SUPREME MENU'—

I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE. I WAS COMPLETELY IN THE DARK AS WELL...


I HAD NO IDEA THIS WAS EVEN HAPPENING ON MY END!!

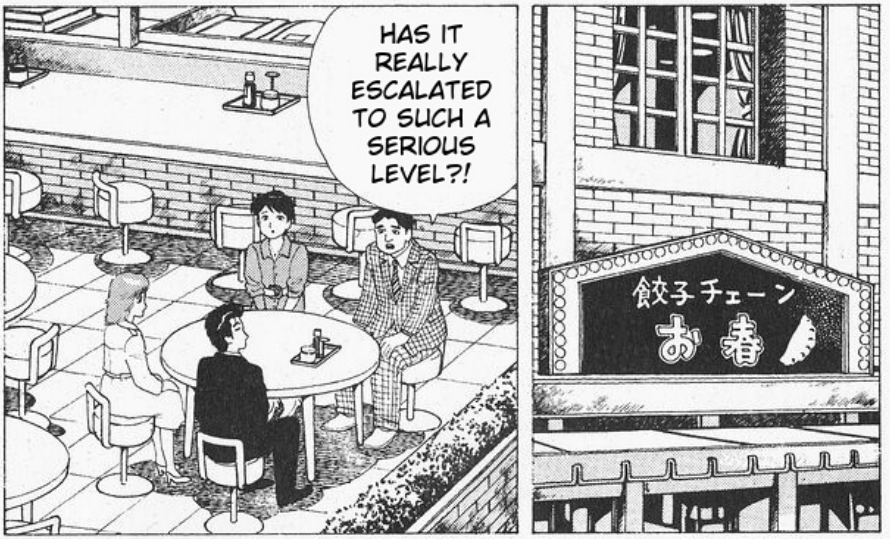


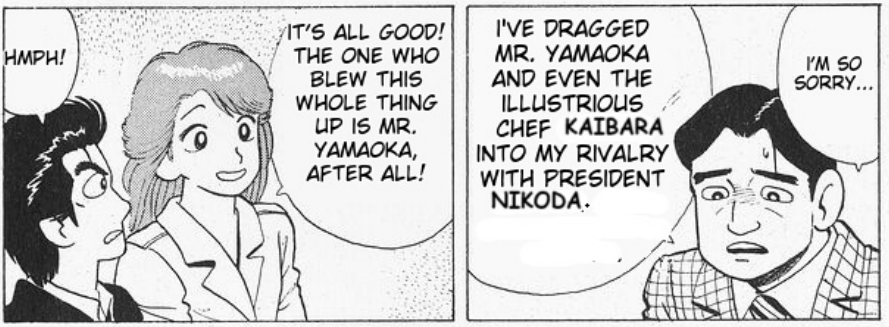
2

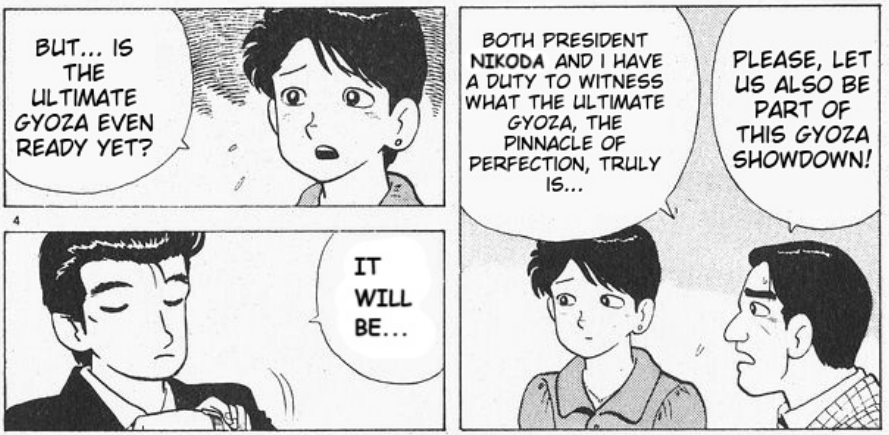
HOW CAN YOU NOT UNDERSTAND SOMETHING SO CRUCIAL?!
YOU FOOL! THE SHOWDOWN WITH YŪZAN KAIBARA IS NOW A BATTLE FOR PRIDE BETWEEN OUR TOZAI NEWSPAPER AND THE TEITO NEWSPAPER?!

DO WE REALLY NEED TO BLOW THIS OUT OF PROPORTION?

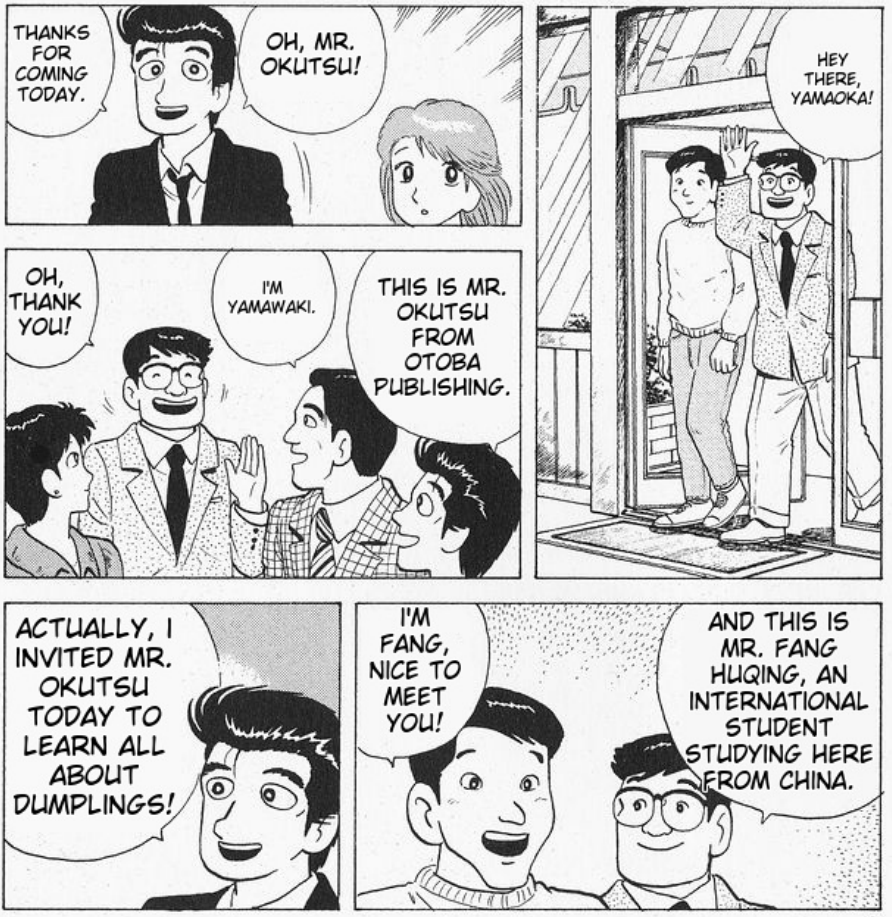
I WONDER WHY A CULINARY SNOB LIKE KAIBARA WOULD STIR THE POT LIKE THIS...
GYOZA IS A BELOVED STREET FOOD IN JAPAN, NOTHING FANCY OR UPSCALE ABOUT IT.
AND YAMAOKA-KUN AND KAIBARA-SAN ARE ON OPPOSITE SIDES...
HMM... SO THIS FEUD BETWEEN THE GYOZA SHOP 'OHARU' AND 'IPPON YARI' IS REALLY HEATING UP,
I REALLY CAN'T SEE HOW THE OUTCOME OF A GYOZA BATTLE TIES INTO CIRCULATION NUMBERS.
OH DEAR...
YAMAOKA!! JUST SO YOU KNOW, IF YOU LOSE, IT WON'T JUST BE A PINK SLIP-IT'S GAME OVER!
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK NOW; ONCE THE WEEKLY TIME CATCHES WIND OF THIS, I'M IN IT TO WIN IT!
I'LL GET YOU!!!
AS THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, MY LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN MY OWN POLICIES MAKES ME FLY OFF THE HANDLE OVER SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS GYOZA...
3
HEY? DID YOU JUST HEAR THAT LITTLE MUTTER OF MINE?
W-WHAT ON EARTH?!

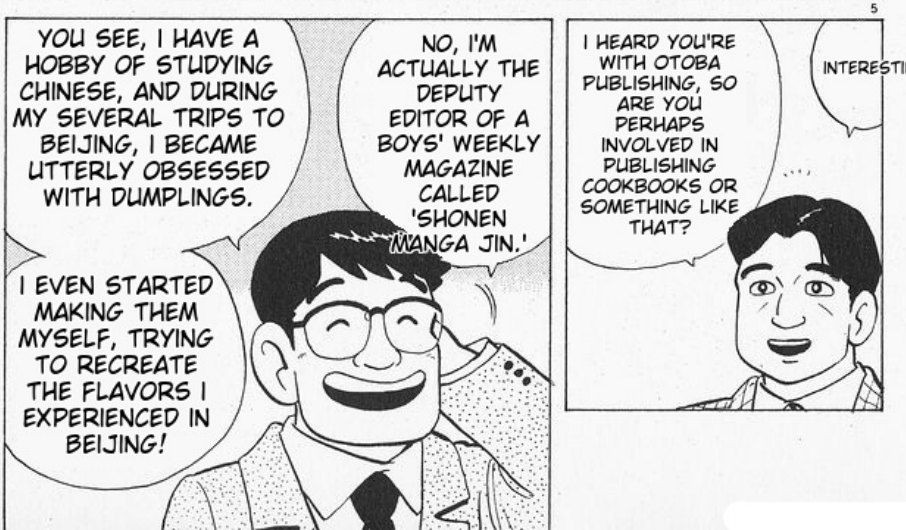

HAS IT REALLY ESCALATED TO SUCH A SERIOUS LEVEL?!
餃子チェーン
お春

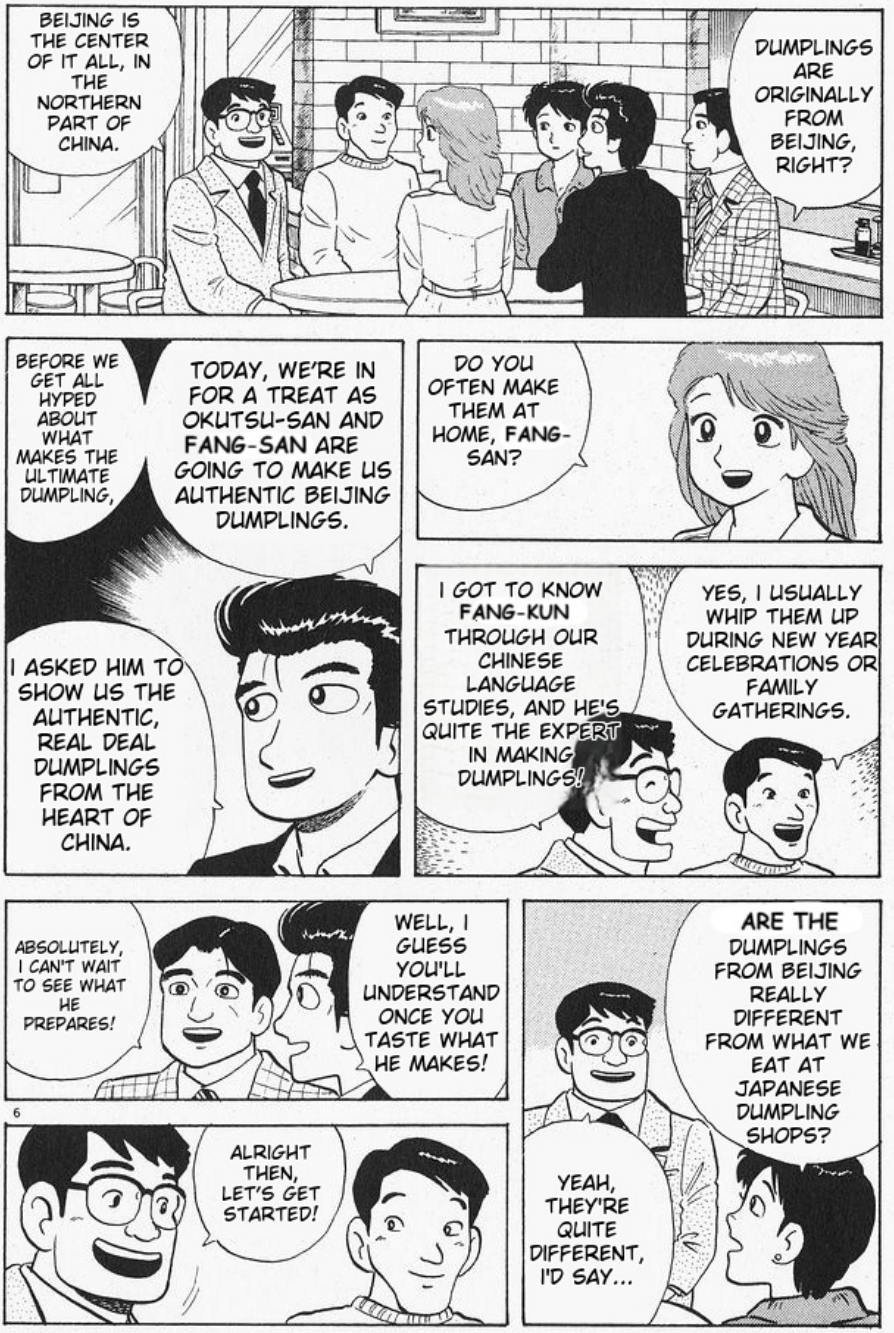

HMPH!
IT'S ALL GOOD! THE ONE WHO BLEW THIS WHOLE THING UP IS MR. YAMAOKA, AFTER ALL!
I'VE DRAGGED MR. YAMAOKA AND EVEN THE ILLUSTRIOUS CHEF KAIBARA INTO MY RIVALRY WITH PRESIDENT NIKODA.
I'M SO SORRY...


BUT... IS THE ULTIMATE GYOZA EVEN READY YET?
4
IT WILL BE...
BOTH PRESIDENT NIKODA AND I HAVE A DUTY TO WITNESS WHAT THE ULTIMATE GYOZA, THE PINNACLE OF PERFECTION, TRULY IS...
PLEASE, LET US ALSO BE PART OF THIS GYOZA SHOWDOWN!

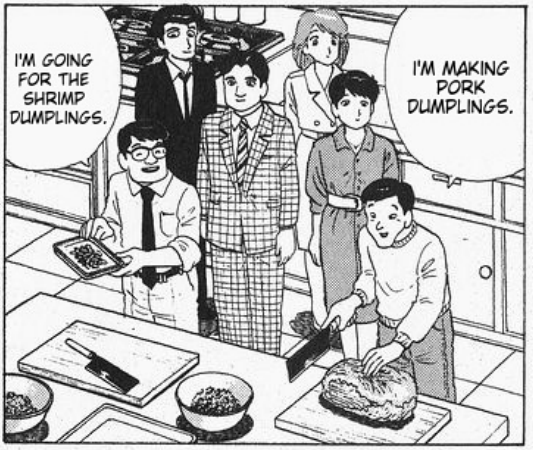
DELICIOUS!

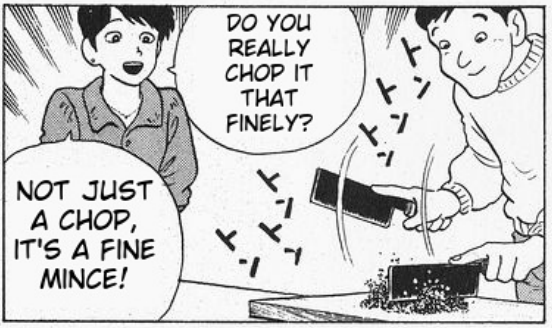

THANKS FOR COMING TODAY.
OH, MR. OKUTSU!
HEY THERE, YAMAOKA!
OH, THANK YOU!
I'M YAMAWAKI.
THIS IS MR. OKUTSU FROM OTOBA PUBLISHING.
ACTUALLY, I INVITED MR. OKUTSU TODAY TO LEARN ALL ABOUT DUMPLINGS!
I'M FANG, NICE TO MEET YOU!
AND THIS IS MR. FANG HUQING, AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT STUDYING HERE FROM CHINA.

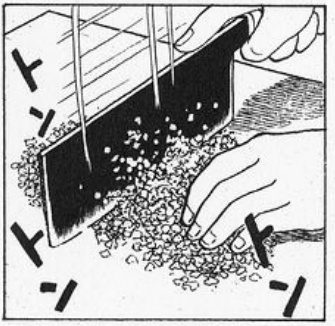

YOU SEE, I HAVE A HOBBY OF STUDYING CHINESE, AND DURING MY SEVERAL TRIPS TO BEIJING, I BECAME UTTERLY OBSESSED WITH DUMPLINGS.
NO, I'M ACTUALLY THE DEPUTY EDITOR OF A BOYS' WEEKLY MAGAZINE CALLED 'SHONEN MANGA JIN.'
I EVEN STARTED MAKING THEM MYSELF, TRYING TO RECREATE THE FLAVORS I EXPERIENCED IN BEIJING!
I HEARD YOU'RE WITH OTOBA PUBLISHING, SO ARE YOU PERHAPS INVOLVED IN PUBLISHING COOKBOOKS OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
INTERESTING,

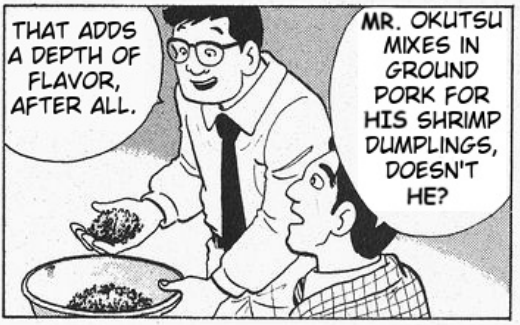

BEIJING IS THE CENTER OF IT ALL, IN THE NORTHERN PART OF CHINA.
DUMPLINGS ARE ORIGINALLY FROM BEIJING, RIGHT?
BEFORE WE GET ALL HYPED ABOUT WHAT MAKES THE ULTIMATE DUMPLING,
TODAY, WE'RE IN FOR A TREAT AS OKUTSU-SAN AND FANG-SAN ARE GOING TO MAKE US AUTHENTIC BEIJING DUMPLINGS.
I ASKED HIM TO SHOW US THE AUTHENTIC, REAL DEAL DUMPLINGS FROM THE HEART OF CHINA.
DO YOU OFTEN MAKE THEM AT HOME, FANG-SAN?
I GOT TO KNOW FANG-KUN THROUGH OUR CHINESE LANGUAGE STUDIES, AND HE'S QUITE THE EXPERT IN MAKING DUMPLINGS!
YES, I USUALLY WHIP THEM UP DURING NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS OR FAMILY GATHERINGS.
ABSOLUTELY, I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT HE PREPARES!
WELL, I GUESS YOU'LL UNDERSTAND ONCE YOU TASTE WHAT HE MAKES!
6
ALRIGHT THEN, LET'S GET STARTED!
ARE THE DUMPLINGS FROM BEIJING REALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE EAT AT JAPANESE DUMPLING SHOPS?
YEAH, THEY'RE QUITE DIFFERENT, I'D SAY...

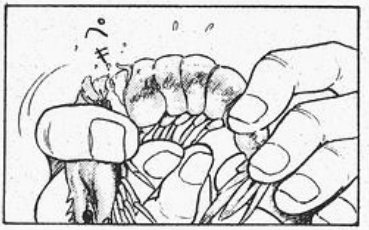
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 17.

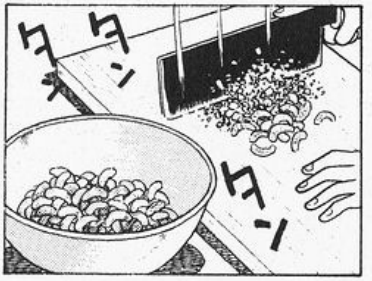


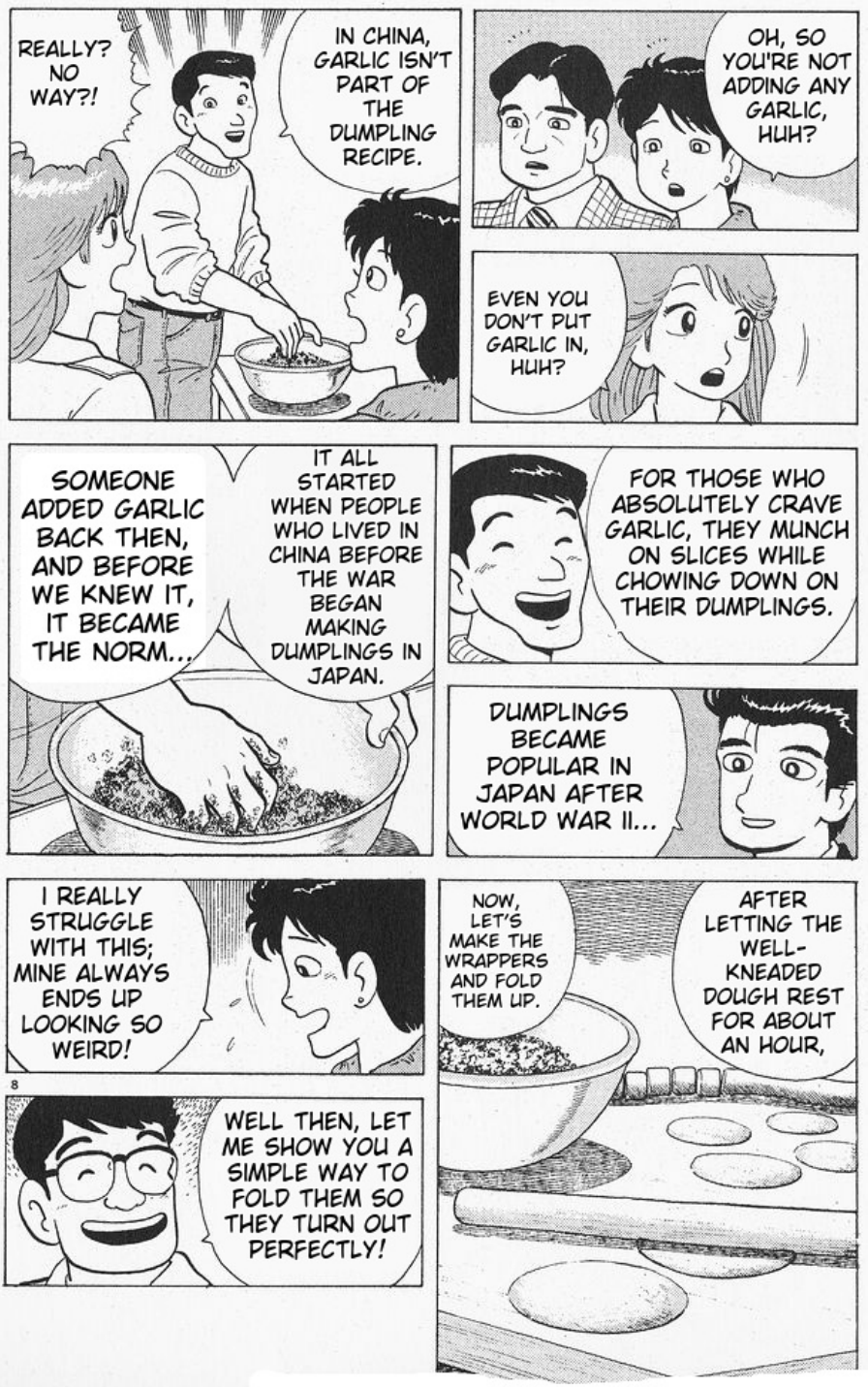




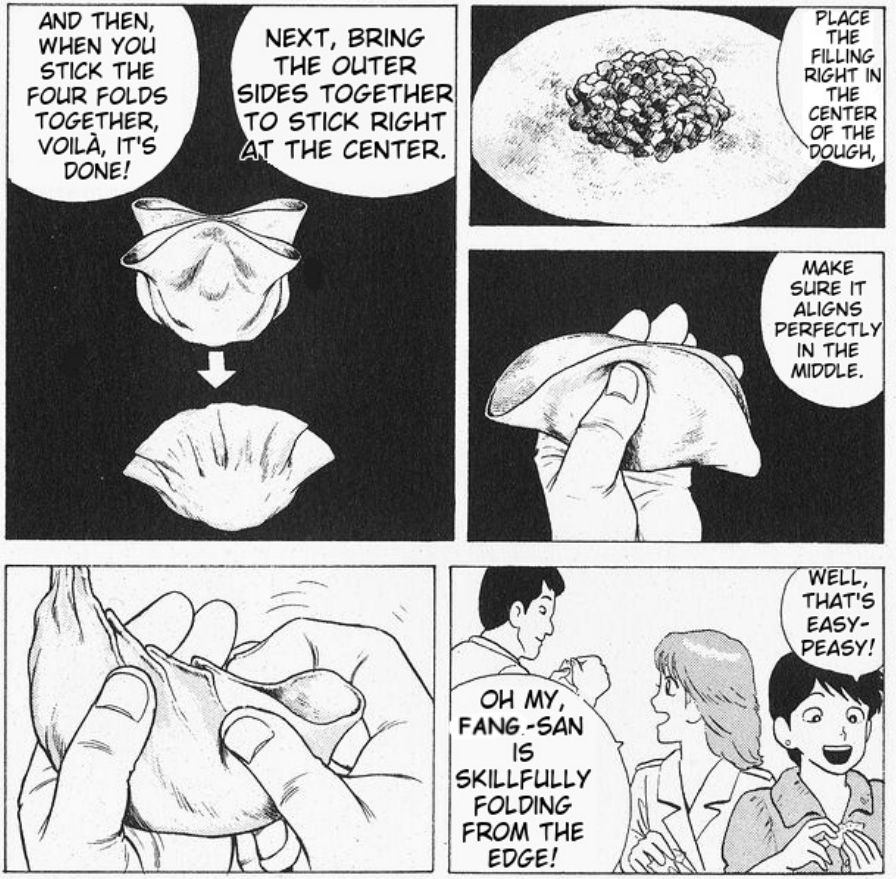




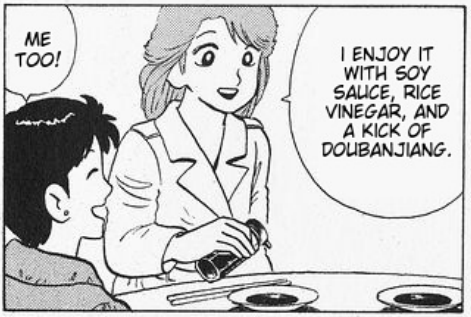



REALLY? NO WAY?!
IN CHINA, GARLIC ISN'T PART OF THE DUMPLING RECIPE.
OH, SO YOU'RE NOT ADDING ANY GARLIC, HUH?
EVEN YOU DON'T PUT GARLIC IN, HUH?
SOMEONE ADDED GARLIC BACK THEN, AND BEFORE WE KNEW IT, IT BECAME THE NORM...
IT ALL STARTED WHEN PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN CHINA BEFORE THE WAR BEGAN MAKING DUMPLINGS IN JAPAN.
FOR THOSE WHO ABSOLUTELY CRAVE GARLIC, THEY MUNCH ON SLICES WHILE CHOWING DOWN ON THEIR DUMPLINGS.
DUMPLINGS BECAME POPULAR IN JAPAN AFTER WORLD WAR II...
I REALLY STRUGGLE WITH THIS; MINE ALWAYS ENDS UP LOOKING SO WEIRD!
WELL THEN, LET ME SHOW YOU A SIMPLE WAY TO FOLD THEM SO THEY TURN OUT PERFECTLY!
NOW, LET'S MAKE THE WRAPPERS AND FOLD THEM UP.
AFTER LETTING THE WELL-KNEADED DOUGH REST FOR ABOUT AN HOUR,

DELICIOUS!

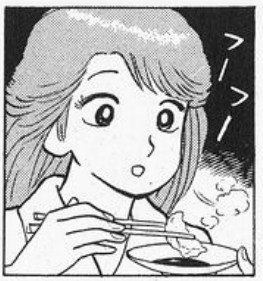

AND THEN, WHEN YOU STICK THE FOUR FOLDS TOGETHER, VOILÀ, IT'S DONE!
NEXT, BRING THE OUTER SIDES TOGETHER TO STICK RIGHT AT THE CENTER.
PLACE THE FILLING RIGHT IN THE CENTER OF THE DOUGH,
MAKE SURE IT ALIGNS PERFECTLY IN THE MIDDLE.
WELL, THAT'S EASY-PEASY!
OH MY, FANG-SAN IS SKILLFULLY FOLDING FROM THE EDGE!
9
WATER DUMPLINGS, HERE WE COME!
WAIT, WE'RE NOT FRYING THEM? WE'RE BOILING INSTEAD?
THE DUMPLINGS WILL BE READY TO BOIL IN NO TIME!
ALRIGHT, EVERYONE TAKE YOUR SEATS.

LET'S DIG IN!


ME TOO!
I ENJOY IT WITH SOY SAUCE, RICE VINEGAR, AND A KICK OF DOUBANJIANG.

AND LET'S SPICE THINGS UP WITH SOME KOREAN CHILI POWDER.
I PAIR IT WITH ZHEJIANG'S RED VINEGAR AND SOY SAUCE,

チュル



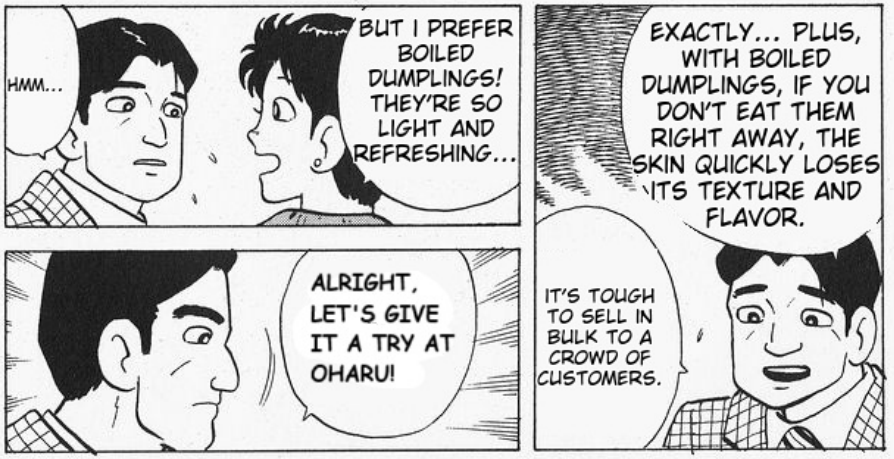
MIXING IN SOME WASABI MAKES IT EVEN MORE DELIGHTFUL!

10

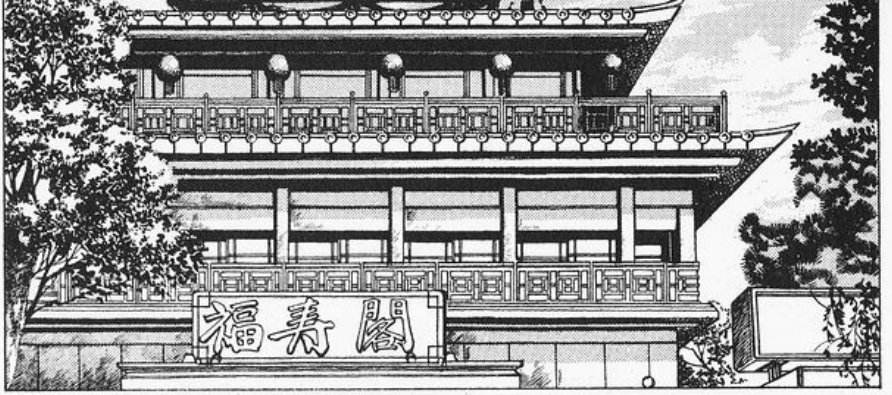
IT SLITHERS IN SO SMOOTHLY, THEN BAM, IT'S IN!
THIS LEATHER-LIKE TEXTURE IS ABSOLUTELY IRRESISTIBLE!

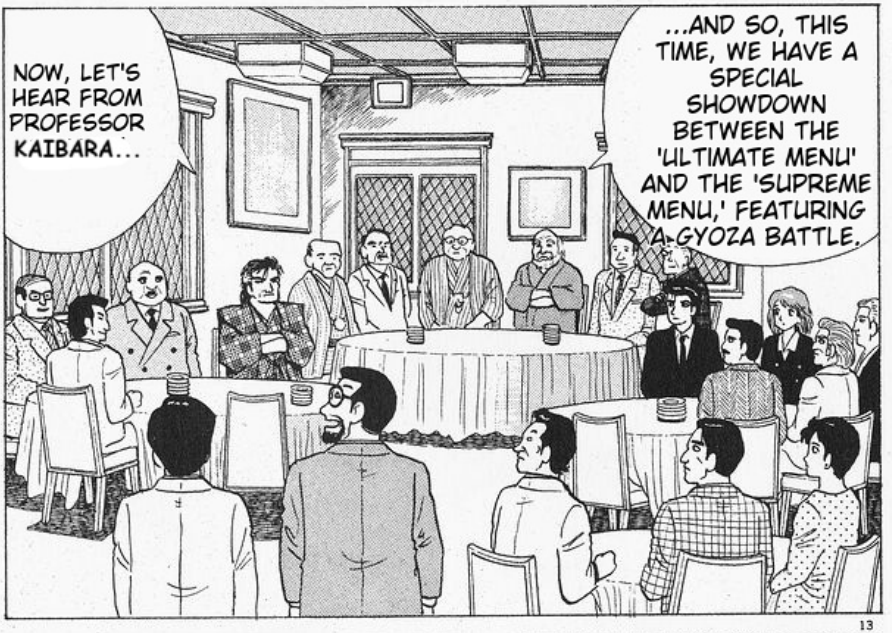
GOURMET DELIGHTS!!!

11



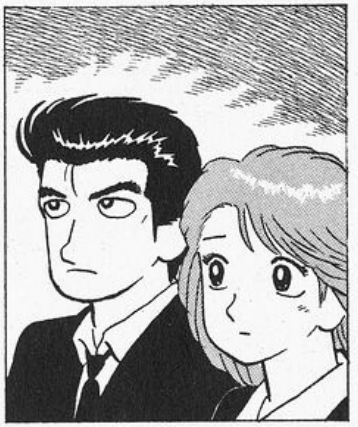
WHEN YOU DIP IT IN THIS, IT'S DELICIOUS.
YOU MIX BLACK VINEGAR WITH A GENEROUS HELPING OF SUGAR.
OH, IS THIS IT?
WHAT'S THAT, FANG?
I'VE LEARNED SOMETHING TODAY!
I SEE, THE LOCALS REALLY DO IT DIFFERENTLY...
WE COULD NEVER IMAGINE DOING THAT.
HMM... BLACK VINEGAR AND SUGAR FOR DUMPLINGS!
12
FANG, DO ALL THE FOLKS IN BEIJING EAT LIKE THAT?
EVERYONE SAYS IT'S GROSS.
NO, IT'S JUST ME.


福寿閣


NOW, LET'S HEAR FROM PROFESSOR KAIBARA...
...AND SO, THIS TIME, WE HAVE A SPECIAL SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AND THE 'SUPREME MENU,' FEATURING A GYOZA BATTLE.

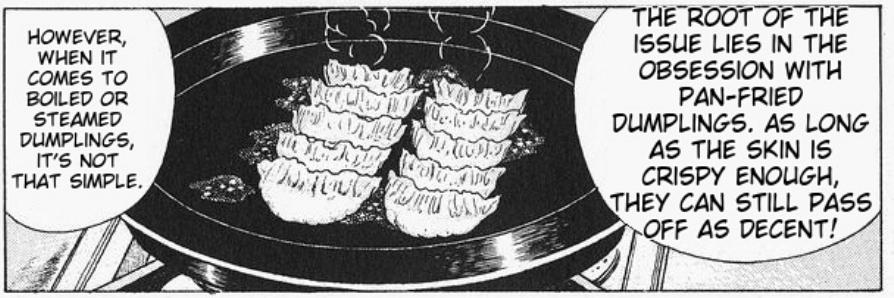
13

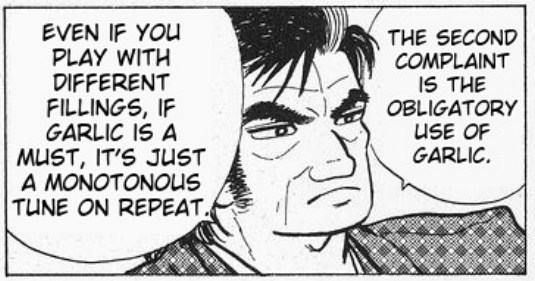
MY BIGGEST COMPLAINT IS THAT THEY LACK A DEFINITIVE FLAVOR.
I HAVE A FEW GRIEVANCES WITH THE DUMPLINGS FROM THE SO-CALLED GYOZA SHOPS IN JAPAN.



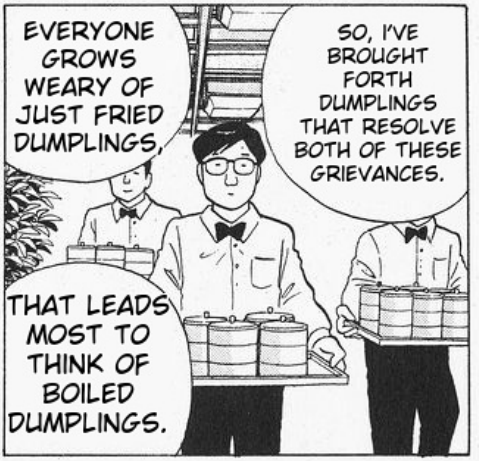
IS IT THE FILLING?
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE TASTE OF THE MEAT OR THE VEGETABLES?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY A DECISIVE FLAVOR?
THAT'S NOT IT.
THINK OF A BOWL OF CHAR SIU RAMEN: NO MATTER HOW DELECTABLE THE PORK IS, IF THE NOODLES ARE SUBPAR, THE DISH FALLS FLAT.
THE GYOZA WRAPPER IS NOT MERELY A VESSEL FOR HOLDING THE FILLING. IN THE WORLD OF NOODLES, IT'S AKIN TO THE NOODLES THEMSELVES.
IT'S THE WRAPPER THAT ENVELOPS EVERYTHING.
IT'S NOT ABOUT THE FILLING.
NO WAY!
THE WRAPPER!
14
UGH...
THE TRUE ESSENCE LIES IN THE FLAVOR OF THE WRAPPER, YET YOU RARELY FIND A GYOZA SHOP THAT MASTERS THIS ART.
THE SAME GOES FOR GYOZA WRAPPERS.

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 17.





15



ONCE STEAMED, THEY DELIVER A TRULY SENSUAL TEXTURE.

THE WRAPPERS ARE CRAFTED FROM RICE FLOUR.

THESE SKINS ARE SEMI-TRANSPARENT, LETTING THE FILLING PEEK THROUGH.

WOW! THESE ARE ABSOLUTELY STUNNING!

THEY'RE PLUMP AND CLING DELIGHTFULLY TO YOUR TONGUE AND LIPS!

MMM!

THE RED ONES ARE SHRIMP DUMPLINGS.

THE GREEN ONES SHIMMERING ARE CHIVE DUMPLINGS,

THE WHITE ONES ARE MADE FROM FISH PASTE.

16

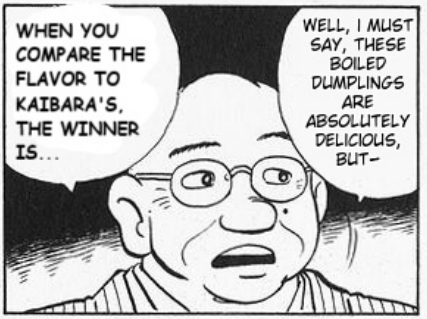
I CAN HARDLY RESIST THESE DELIGHTS!

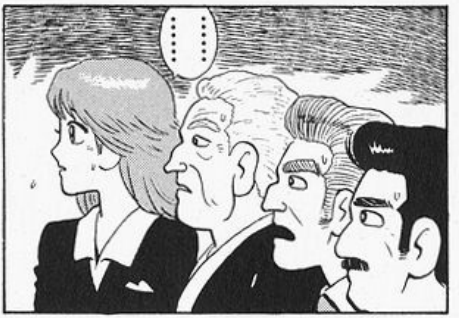
DELICIOUS!

WHEN YOU WRAP THE GELATINOUS BROTH WITH THE FILLING AND STEAM IT, THE BROTH MELTS AND ENVELOPS EVERYTHING.
IT'S MADE THE SAME WAY AS XIAO LONG BAO.
WHEN YOU BITE INTO IT, THE SOUP BURSTS FORTH LIKE A FOUNTAIN...
OH NO!
I'LL HAND IT OVER TO YOU, YAMAOKA-SAN.
NOW THEN, LET'S MOVE ON.
IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO THE DUMPLINGS FROM THE LOCAL SHOP!
HOW UTTERLY SOPHISTICATED THE FLAVOR IS...
17
HEHE, INDEED, IT MUST BE THE WATER DUMPLINGS.

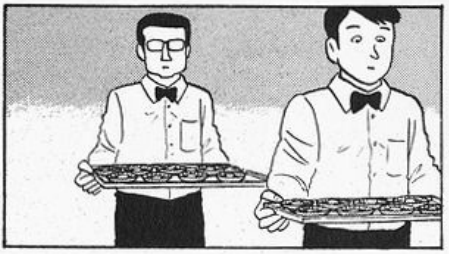
THIS IS THE RESULT OF THAT PURSUIT, A DAZZLING DUMPLING!
THE CRUST IS MADE OF FLOUR, WHILE THE FILLING BURSTS WITH MEAT AND VEGETABLES—IT'S A COMPLETE MEAL PACKED WITH ALMOST ALL THE NUTRIENTS YOU NEED!
IN MY OPINION, DUMPLINGS COULD TRULY BECOME A COMPLETE MEAL...
WH-WHAT A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE THIS IS!
I'VE SEASONED IT WITH A SPLASH OF SAKE!
WITH SHIITAKE MUSHROOMS, GINGER, AND A SECRET TOUCH OF HACCHO MISO BLENDED IN,
THE FILLING IS... MEAT, CHINESE CABBAGE, AND LEEKS, AND...
UNLIKE THE DELICATE RICE FLOUR WRAPPERS, THESE HAVE A CHARMING RUSTICITY, WITH A SATISFYING HEFT THAT TRULY STANDS OUT!
LET'S HEAR WHAT THE JUDGES HAVE TO SAY!
HA! THE WAY OF KINGS OR THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, SUCH TRIVIALITIES! THOSE PRETENTIOUS IDEALS MEAN NOTHING TO ME!!
18
AFTER SAVORING THE GYOZA MADE BY FANG, THE EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM BEIJING,
WRAPPING THEM IN RICE FLOUR SKIN AND STEAMING IS DELIGHTFUL, BUT GYOZA IS UNDENIABLY A CELEBRATION OF WHEAT FLOUR CULTURE.
I'VE COME TO REALIZE THIS IS THE TRUE PATH OF GYOZA, THE ULTIMATE WAY!

DELICIOUS!

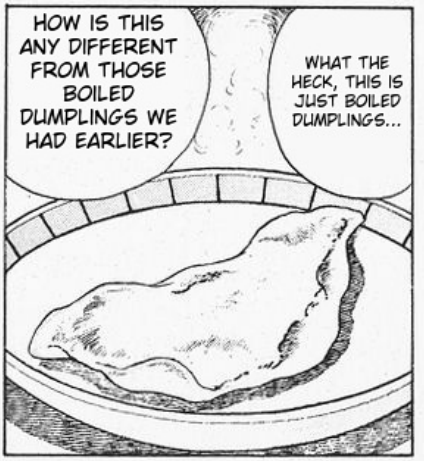

WHEN YOU COMPARE THE FLAVOR TO KAIBARA'S, THE WINNER IS...
WELL, I MUST SAY, THESE BOILED DUMPLINGS ARE ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS, BUT-



I STILL HAVE ONE PLATE LEFT ON MY SIDE.
HOLD ON A SECOND!



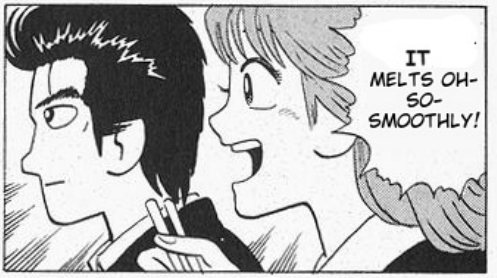
hmm


HOW IS THIS ANY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE BOILED DUMPLINGS WE HAD EARLIER?
WHAT THE HECK, THIS IS JUST BOILED DUMPLINGS...

OH MY...
WHA- WAIT, THIS IS!?

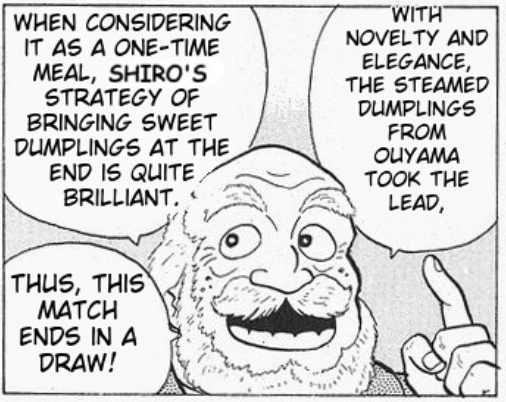
OH SO SWEET!

NO MATTER HOW LIGHT THEY MAY SEEM, THE PALATE FEELS WEIGHED DOWN AFTER THE DUMPLINGS. BUT THEN, IT ALL JUST CLEARED AWAY IN AN INSTANT!
THIS SHOULD BE JUDGED BY PAIRING THE EARLIER BOILED DUMPLINGS WITH THESE SWEET ONES!


IT MELTS OH-SO-SMOOTHLY!

THIS IS A SURPRISE ATTACK!
BUT WHAT A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE THIS IS!

20


WHEN CONSIDERING IT AS A ONE-TIME MEAL, SHIRO'S STRATEGY OF BRINGING SWEET DUMPLINGS AT THE END IS QUITE BRILLIANT.
WITH NOVELTY AND ELEGANCE, THE STEAMED DUMPLINGS FROM OUYAMA TOOK THE LEAD,
THUS, THIS MATCH ENDS IN A DRAW!

HMM...

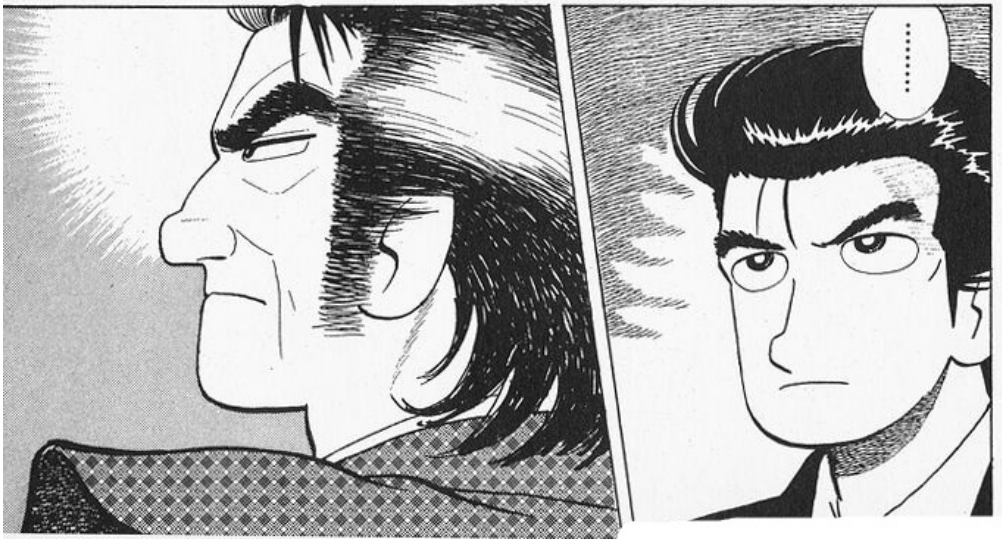
DELICIOUS!

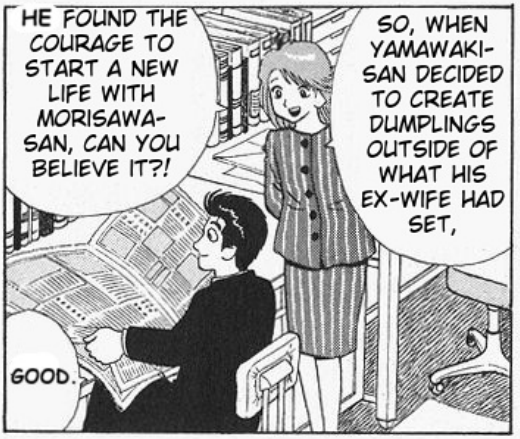
WATCHING TODAY'S GYOZA SHOWDOWN MADE IT CLEAR THAT I STILL HAVE MUCH TO LEARN.
YAMAWAKI-SAN...

LET'S MAKE SURE WE'RE READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT!
AH, BUT THE GYOZA IS A SPECIAL CASE!

I HAD NO RIGHT TO BE SO RUDE TO YOU.

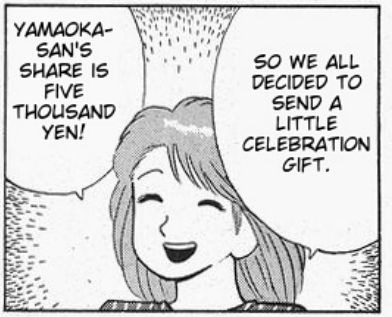
BASED ON WHAT WE'VE LEARNED TODAY, LET'S COMPETE TO CREATE EVEN MORE DELICIOUS GYOZA!
IT'S OKAY!


.....

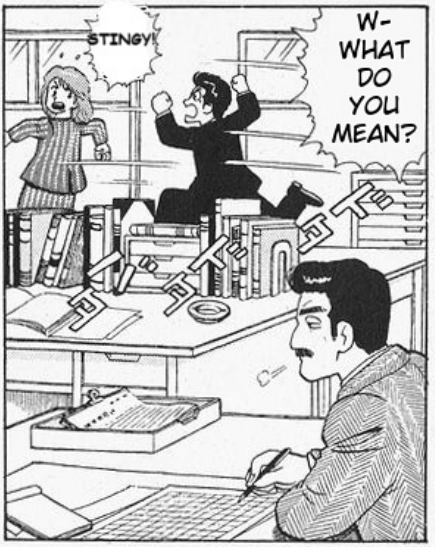

HE FOUND THE COURAGE TO START A NEW LIFE WITH MORISAWA-SAN, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?!
SO, WHEN YAMAWAKI-SAN DECIDED TO CREATE DUMPLINGS OUTSIDE OF WHAT HIS EX-WIFE HAD SET,
GOOD.

THANKS TO YAMAOKA-SAN, MORISAWA-SAN IS NOW MARRYING YAMAWAKI-SAN!

NO KIDDING! I HELP WITH THIS NEW DUMPLING RECIPE AND THEY WANT TO CHARGE ME FOR IT?!
バサッ


YAMAOKA-SAN'S SHARE IS FIVE THOUSAND YEN!
SO WE ALL DECIDED TO SEND A LITTLE CELEBRATION GIFT.

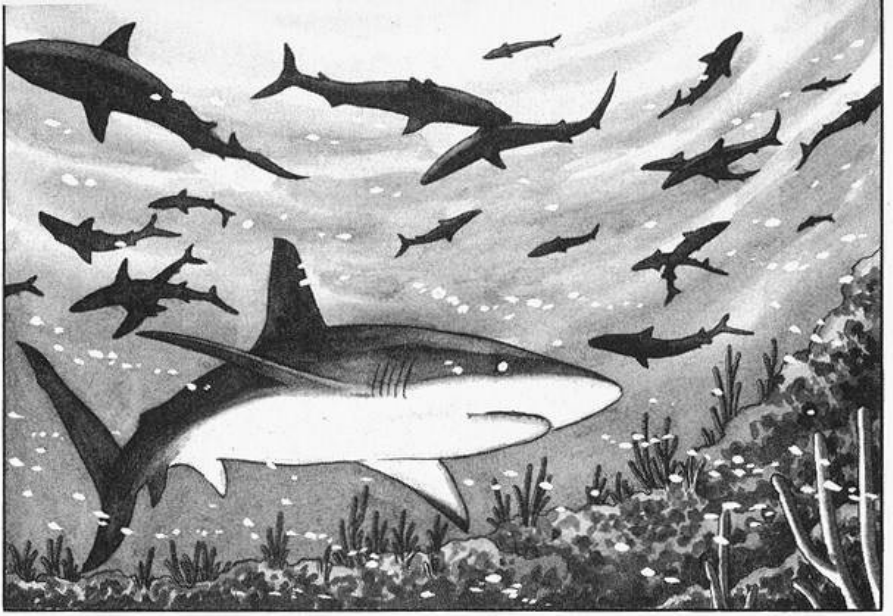
22

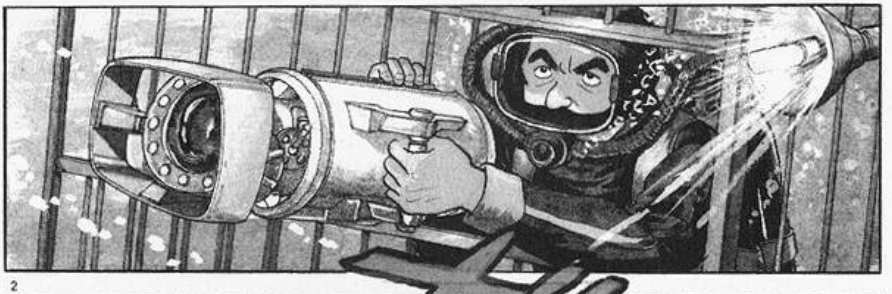

STINGY!
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT?!
OH MY! HOW STINGY AND TIGHT-FISTED COULD YOU BE?! I GET IT NOW!

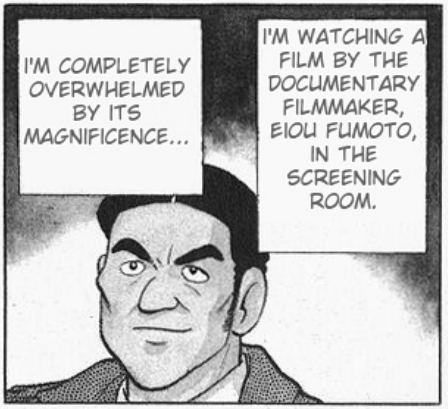
THAT BROWN SUGAR DUMPLING IS JUST SO QUINTESSENTIALLY YAMAOKA-SAN!
HOW STINGY AND DARK-HEARTED...

第2話
エイと鮫〈前編〉

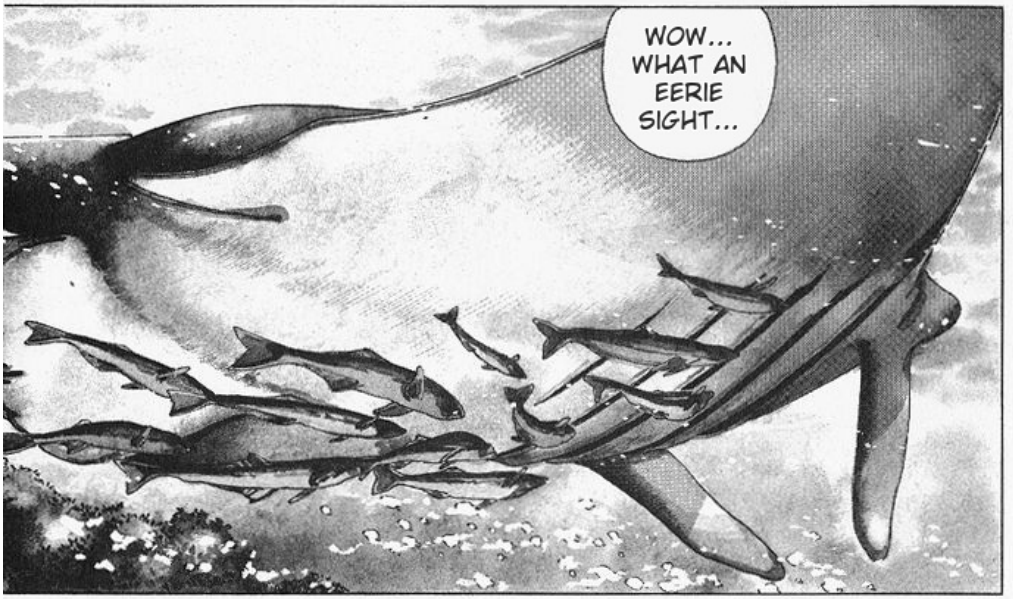




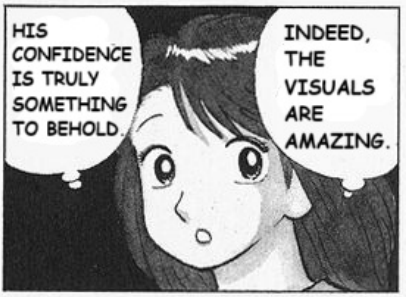
2


I'M COMPLETELY OVERWHELMED BY ITS MAGNIFICENCE...
I'M WATCHING A FILM BY THE DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER, EIOU FUMOTO, IN THE SCREENING ROOM.

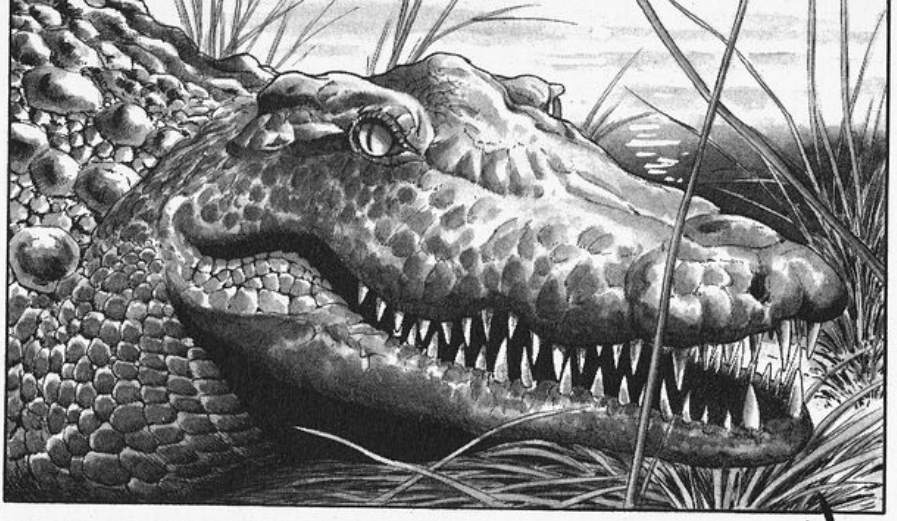
THIS IS TERRIFYING!!!

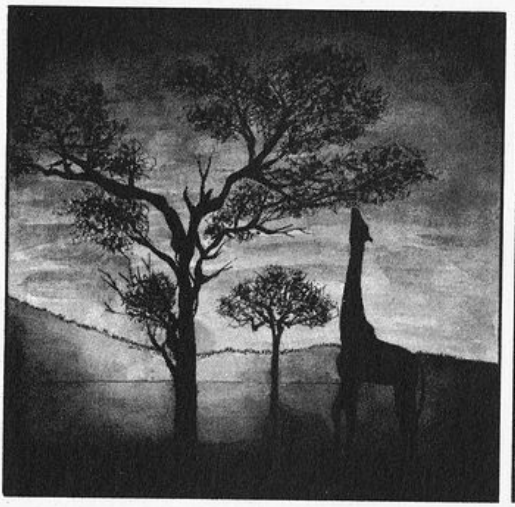

WOW... WHAT AN EERIE SIGHT...

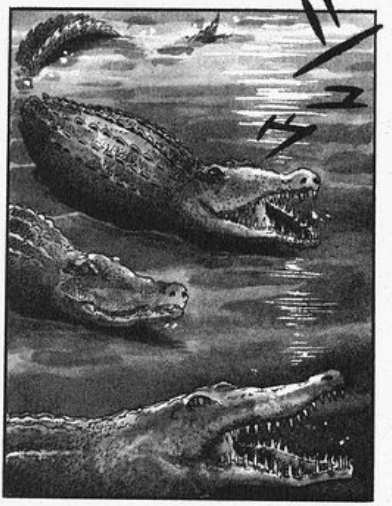
3

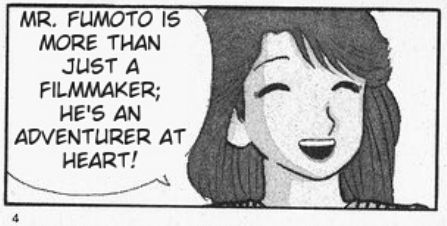

HIS CONFIDENCE IS TRULY SOMETHING TO BEHOLD.
INDEED, THE VISUALS ARE AMAZING.

I MUST BE THE ONLY ONE TO HAVE CAPTURED SUCH A COLOSSAL CREATURE ON CAMERA.
IT'S A THREAD-WRAPPING STINGRAY, AND...

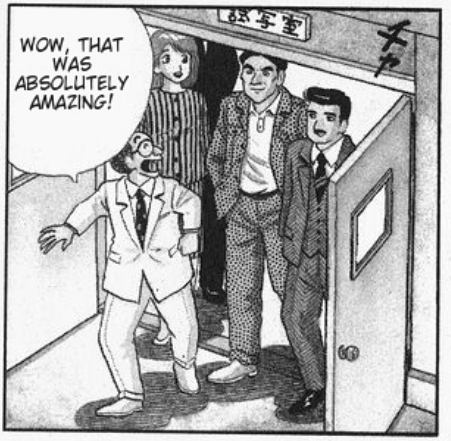






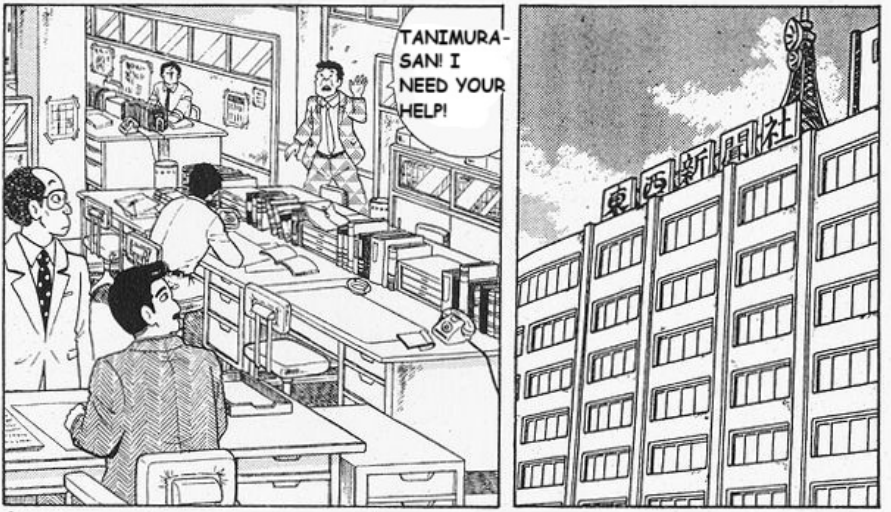

MR. FUMOTO IS MORE THAN JUST A FILMMAKER; HE'S AN ADVENTURER AT HEART!

4

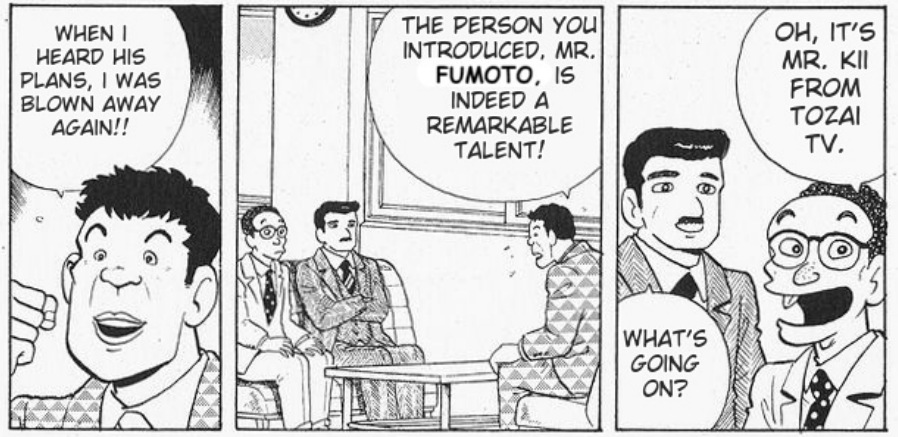

WOW, THAT WAS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!

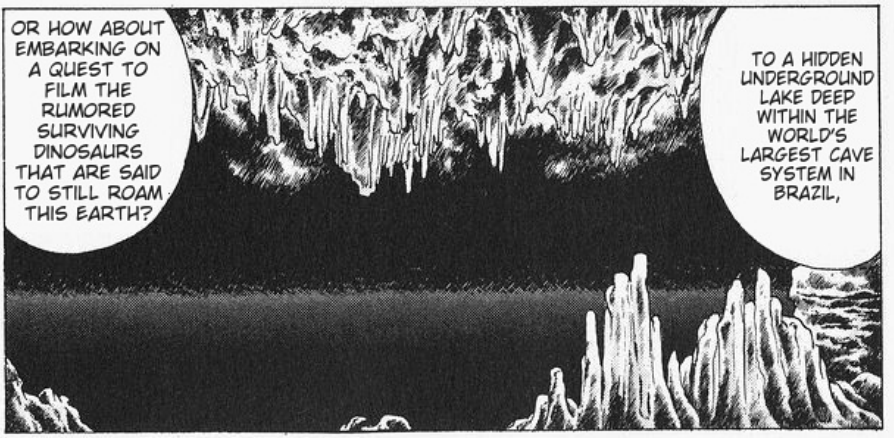
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 17

WOW, YOU'RE JUST RADIATING CONFIDENCE FROM HEAD TO TOE...
ABSOLUTELY! YOUR GRAPH MAGAZINE IS ABOUT TO SKYROCKET IN SALES!!
はっ
はっ
はっ


TANIMURA-SAN! I NEED YOUR HELP!
東西新聞社

6


WHEN I HEARD HIS PLANS, I WAS BLOWN AWAY AGAIN!!
THE PERSON YOU INTRODUCED, MR. FUMOTO, IS INDEED A REMARKABLE TALENT!
OH, IT'S MR. KII FROM TOZAI TV.
WHAT'S GOING ON?


OR HOW ABOUT EMBARKING ON A QUEST TO FILM THE RUMORED SURVIVING DINOSAURS THAT ARE SAID TO STILL ROAM THIS EARTH?
TO A HIDDEN UNDERGROUND LAKE DEEP WITHIN THE WORLD'S LARGEST CAVE SYSTEM IN BRAZIL,

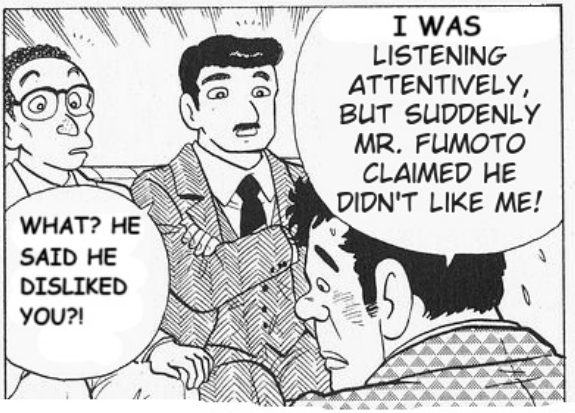
JUST HEARING ABOUT IT MAKES MY HEART RACE WITH EXCITEMENT!
WOW!

I THOUGHT THE SAME.

EACH IDEA IS A TREASURE TROVE FOR CREATING AN EXTRAORDINARY SHOW!
LIKE HEADING DEEP INTO THE MARIANA TRENCH TO CAPTURE FOOTAGE OF THOSE COLOSSAL FOUR-LEGGED FISH...

7

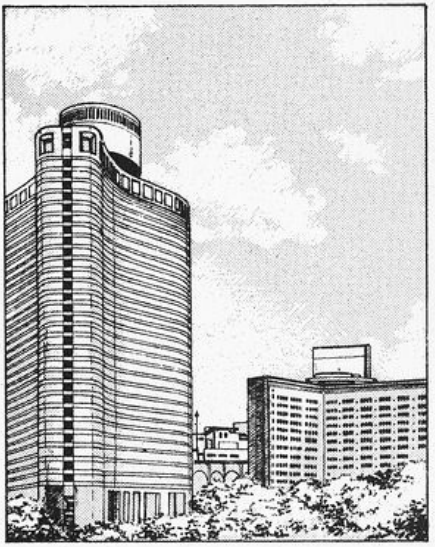
SO HE DOESN'T WANT TO WORK TOGETHER ANYMORE.
HE DID.

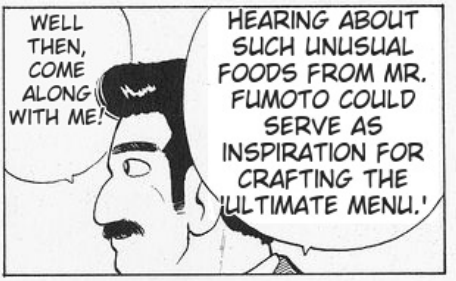

I WAS LISTENING ATTENTIVELY, BUT SUDDENLY MR. FUMOTO CLAIMED HE DIDN'T LIKE ME!
WHAT? HE SAID HE DISLIKED YOU?!

I'VE BEEN STRUGGLING TO COME UP WITH A FITTING CONCEPT FOR NEXT SUMMER'S ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL! IF WE CREATE WHAT HE SUGGESTS, IT'S BOUND TO BE A HIT.
BUT I REALLY WANT TO WORK WITH HIM!!!
YOU'RE JUST LIKE A KID, AREN'T YOU!?
HONESTLY... I JUST CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY HE WOULD DISLIKE ME SO MUCH.
HE'S GOT TALENT, BUT HE'S DEFINITELY A QUIRKY ONE.
HMM...
I WANT YOU TO TELL HIM TO TEAM UP WITH ME! PLEASE!
PLEASE, I NEED YOU TO CONVINCE THAT GUY!
8
IT SEEMS MR. FUMOTO HAS QUITE THE APETITE FOR GOOD FOOD...

WHAT?! GIANT BAT STEW AND CROCODILE STEAK?! ARE YOU SERIOUS?!

LIKE GIANT BAT STEW OR CROCODILE STEAK; IT SEEMS HE'S HAD QUITE THE CULINARY ADVENTURES.
WELL, IT'S OFTEN BECAUSE HE VENTURES INTO THE WORLD'S HIDDEN GEMS FOR FILMING,

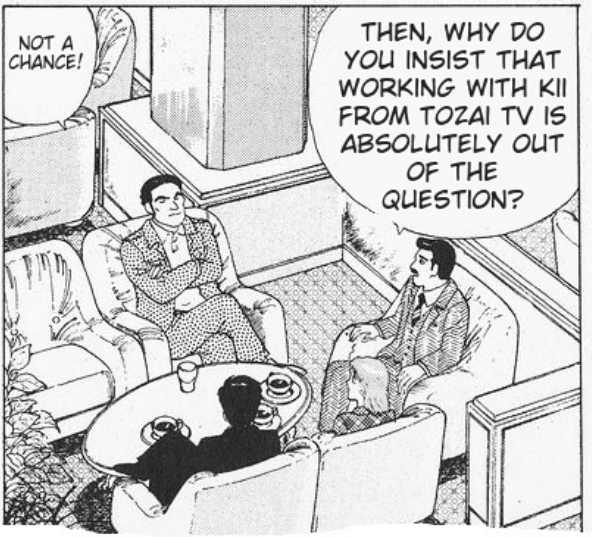



WELL THEN, COME ALONG WITH ME!
HEARING ABOUT SUCH UNUSUAL FOODS FROM MR. FUMOTO COULD SERVE AS INSPIRATION FOR CRAFTING THE ULTIMATE MENU.'

ABSOLUTELY!

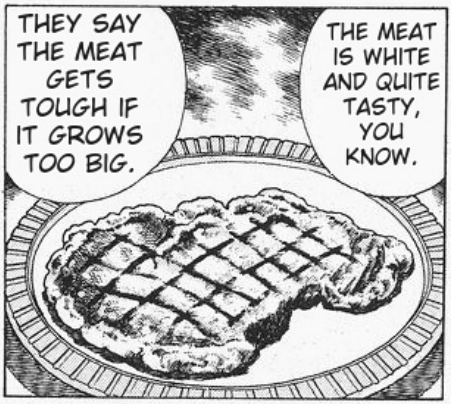
9

I REFUSE TO WORK WITH ANYONE I DISLIKE.


NOT A CHANCE!
THEN, WHY DO YOU INSIST THAT WORKING WITH KII FROM TOZAI TV IS ABSOLUTELY OUT OF THE QUESTION?

THIS IS A MATTER OF SENSIBILITY.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANY SPECIFIC REASON BEHIND IT!
SENSIBILITY?
I REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE THERE WAS EVER ANYTHING THAT WOULD WARRANT SUCH DISLIKE...
BUT WHY DO YOU DISLIKE KII-KUN SO MUCH?
I CAN'T STAND THE SCENT OF THAT COLOGNE HE USES!!
HIS FASHION SENSE? DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED.
I JUST CAN'T STAND HIS FACE, HIS VOICE GRATES ON ME.
10
TO DO A GREAT JOB, IT'S ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL THAT YOU AND YOUR PARTNER'S VIBES ALIGN PERFECTLY.
I SUPPOSE THAT'S COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO ONE'S SKILLS AS A PRODUCER, BUT STILL...
IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR ME.
WAIT, IS THAT REALLY YOUR REASON FOR HATING HIM?!
OVER SOMETHING SO SUPERFICIAL...

DELICIOUSNESS CHRONICLES 17


THEY SAY THE MEAT GETS TOUGH IF IT GROWS TOO BIG.
THE MEAT IS WHITE AND QUITE TASTY, YOU KNOW.

I SEE... HOW ABOUT A CROCODILE STEAK?
THEY EAT FRUIT? THAT'S A SURPRISE!

HUH? BUT THAT'S STRANGE; THERE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN CROCODILES IN JAPAN SINCE ANCIENT TIMES...
I THINK I READ SOMEWHERE IN A MAGAZINE THAT IT'S A TRADITIONAL LOCAL DISH...

WHAT? IN JAPAN?!
BUT IN JAPAN, THEY EAT CROCODILES TOO, RIGHT?

12

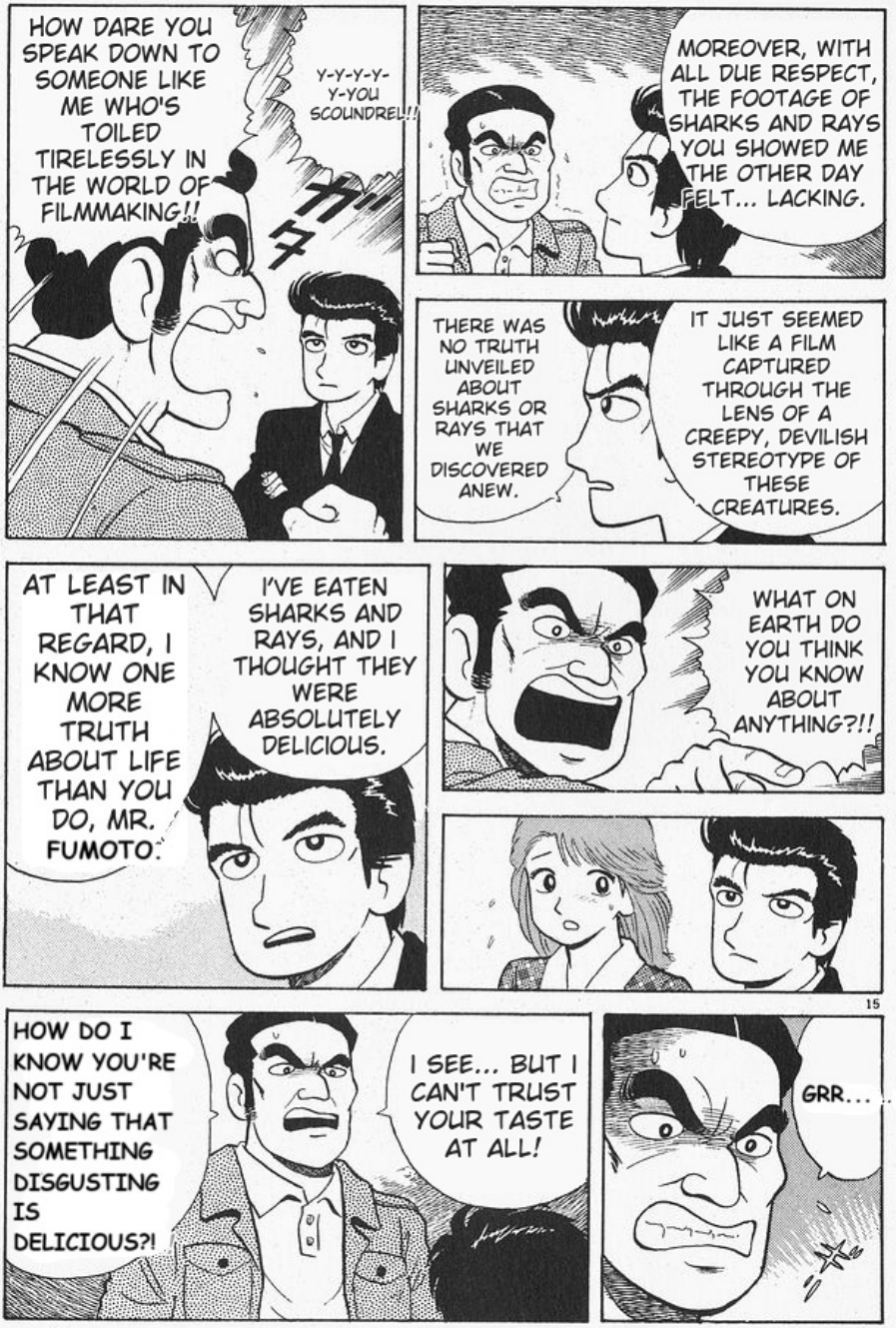
THAT WOULD BE THE SHARK, RIGHT? BACK IN THE DAY, THEY CALLED SHARKS CROCODILES, AND EVEN TODAY IN THE CHUGOKU REGION, THEY STILL USE THE TERM FOR SHARKS.
REMEMBER THE STORY OF THE WHITE RABBIT FROM INABA? THE ONE TRICKED BY THE RABBIT, WHO, IN A FIT OF RAGE, ENDS UP SKINNING IT?
OH, I SEE, IT'S A SHARK...

THAT CROCODILE REFERS TO SHARKS, YOU KNOW.
AH, I GET IT NOW.

WHAT, SHARKS?

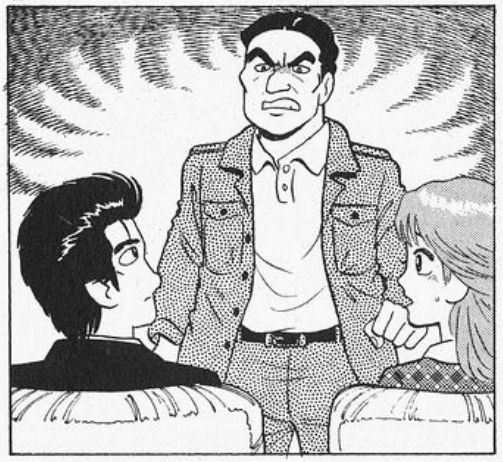
I'D NEVER EAT A SHARK!
NOT EVEN CLOSE!
YOU'VE PROBABLY HAD YOUR FAIR SHARE OF SHARK BY NOW, HAVEN'T YOU?
HAVE YOU TRIED IT?
I DID SEE A RAY IN THAT DOCUMENTARY THE OTHER DAY, BUT HOW ABOUT YOU?
STOP ASKING ME ALL THESE UNCOMFORTABLE QUESTIONS!!
THAT WOULD MEAN YOU HAD PLENTY OF CHANCES TO EAT SHARK, DON'T YOU THINK...?
OH, BUT IF YOU'RE FILMING, YOU MUST BE GOING TO PLACES FULL OF SHARKS, RIGHT?
I WON'T EVEN EAT SHARK FIN FROM CHINESE CUISINE.
OH, THERE WERE SHARKS EVERYWHERE! BUT I ABSOLUTELY LOATHE THEM, EATING ONE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION!
I SEE... SO NEITHER SHARKS NOR RAYS RESONATE WITH YOUR ARTISTIC SENSIBILITIES.
MY GOODNESS! YOU REALLY ARE QUITE THE ECCENTRIC...
I'M NOT SOME KIND OF WEIRDO WHO EATS RAYS, YOU KNOW!
I MAY FILM THEM FOR DOCUMENTARIES, BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF THINGS I REALLY CAN'T STAND.
OF COURSE NOT!

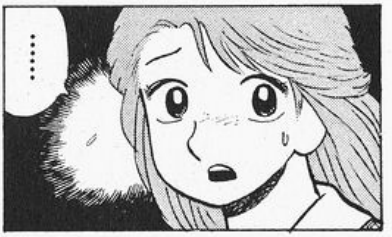
YOU'RE JUDGING WITHOUT EVEN TASTING, JUST GOING BY APPEARANCES.
HMM... ESSENTIALLY, THAT'S JUST PLAIN OLD PICKY EATING.
I'M A FILMMAKER! THE SENSIBILITIES OF SOMEONE WHO MAKES ART FOR A LIVING ARE WAY BEYOND YOUR GRASP!
WHAT COULD A SALARYMAN LIKE YOU POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND?!
WHAT IS IT?!
WELL, WHEN IT COMES TO FOOD, I SUPPOSE IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE TO BE PICKY, BUT IF YOU TREAT WORK THE SAME WAY, THAT'S JUST UNBEARABLE.
14
COMPLAINING ABOUT WORKING WITH KII-SAN, AND SAYING YOU HATE SHARKS WITHOUT EVEN GIVING THEM A TRY...
AFTER ALL, YOU WON'T EVEN ENGAGE PROPERLY,
DECIDING BASED ONLY ON LOOKS IS A SURE SIGN OF DULL SENSES AND A LACK OF IMAGINATION.
MY SENSIBILITIES ARE DULL?! HOW DARE YOU?!
TO ME, THAT SENSE SEEMS PRETTY BLUNT AND DULL, IF YOU ASK ME.
YAMAOKA-KUN!


HOW DARE YOU SPEAK DOWN TO SOMEONE LIKE ME WHO'S TOILED TIRELESSLY IN THE WORLD OF FILMMAKING!!
Y-Y-Y-Y-Y-YOU SCOUNDREL!!!
ガッ
MOREOVER, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THE FOOTAGE OF SHARKS AND RAYS YOU SHOWED ME THE OTHER DAY FELT... LACKING.
THERE WAS NO TRUTH UNVEILED ABOUT SHARKS OR RAYS THAT WE DISCOVERED ANEW.
IT JUST SEEMED LIKE A FILM CAPTURED THROUGH THE LENS OF A CREEPY, DEVILISH STEREOTYPE OF THESE CREATURES.
AT LEAST IN THAT REGARD, I KNOW ONE MORE TRUTH ABOUT LIFE THAN YOU DO, MR. FUMOTO.
I'VE EATEN SHARKS AND RAYS, AND I THOUGHT THEY WERE ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS.
WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT ANYTHING?!!
HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE NOT JUST SAYING THAT SOMETHING DISGUSTING IS DELICIOUS?!
I SEE... BUT I CAN'T TRUST YOUR TASTE AT ALL!
GRR...

OH MY! WHAT A FORCEFUL WAY TO PUT IT...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN MY ABILITY TO JUDGE WITHOUT TASTING MAKES ME THE SUPERIOR ONE!!
ALRIGHT, BRING ON THE SHARK OR THE RAY!!!
I WON'T BACK DOWN AFTER BEING CHALLENGED LIKE THAT!!
I'LL EAT IT, I SWEAR!!
WHAT? ARE YOU TELLING ME TO TRY SHARK OR STINGRAY?!
IT SEEMS THE ONLY WAY IS FOR YOU TO ACTUALLY TRY IT.
EVERYONE HAS THEIR LIMITS, YOU KNOW...
I'M NOT SAYING YOU HAVE TO, THOUGH.

16



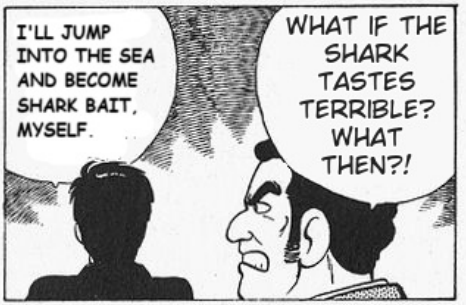
GOODNESS, YOU REALLY ARE SOMETHING ELSE!
HEY, HEY, YAMAOKA-KUN...

.....

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY TELLING ME WE CAN CATCH SHARKS HERE?!

WELL, YOU SEE, I HAD A LITTLE HUNCH ABOUT SOMETHING...
WHY ON EARTH DID YOU BRING ME TO THIS RUNDOWN PART OF TOWN?

ISN'T IT FASCINATING?

YAMAOKA -SAN...


I'LL JUMP INTO THE SEA AND BECOME SHARK BAIT, MYSELF.
WHAT IF THE SHARK TASTES TERRIBLE? WHAT THEN?!

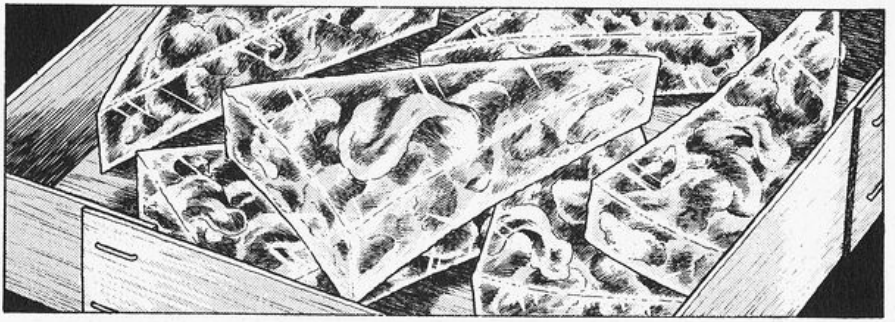
17

AH-HA! LOOK WHAT I'VE FOUND!

ALRIGHT, I'LL USE YOU AS BAIT TO LURE IN SOME SHARKS!!
OH! YOU JUST SAID THAT!

IS THAT STALL OVER THERE SELLING SHARK?
WOW... THEY STILL COME AROUND SELLING FISH LIKE THAT, HUH?
HEY THERE, SIR, DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THAT JELLIED FISH?
SURE THING!

DELICIOUS!



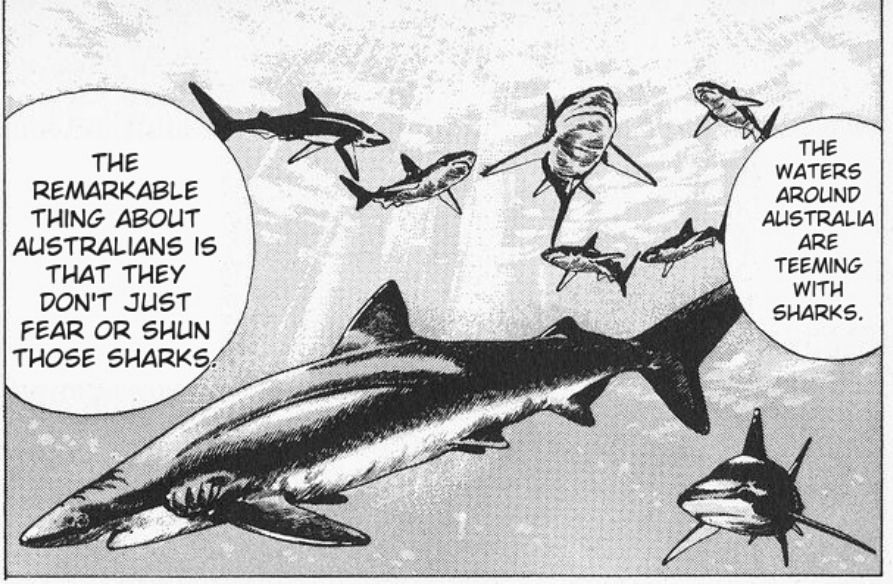
19

SHARK SKIN IS PACKED WITH GELATIN, YOU KNOW.
IT MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH LIKE A DREAM! THERE'S SO MUCH GELATINOUS GOODNESS IN HERE...
クチュ
モグモグ
THE SHARK'S BODY IS NATURALLY DESIGNED TO ACCUMULATE AMMONIA WITHIN IT!
THAT'S THE AMMONIA SMELL FOR YOU.
EXACTLY! IT HAS A POWERFUL AROMA, AND QUITE THE UNIQUE FLAVOR!
BUT IT REALLY IS QUITE PUNGENT!
I CAN'T FATHOM HOW ANYONE COULD ACTUALLY ENJOY THIS STENCH!
WELL, THE TASTE ISN'T THAT TERRIBLE, BUT...
INDEED, IT REEKS OF AMMONIA! HOW COULD ANYONE EAT THIS?!?!
FIRST OF ALL, THE FLAVOR ITSELF ISN'T HALF BAD, RIGHT?
IS THAT SO...? BUT ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT, THAT SCENT BECOMES UTTERLY IRRESISTIBLE.
THIS ISN'T A FLAVOR THAT EVERYONE WOULD RAVE ABOUT!!

20

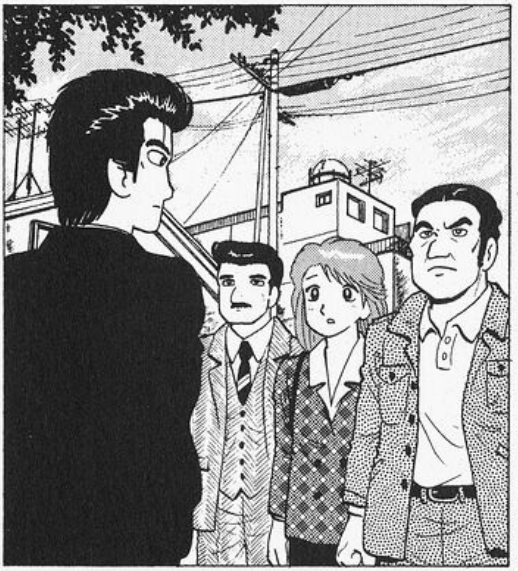
DELICIOUS!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL HAVE TO BECOME A PART OF THE SHARK'S MENU!!
I WANT YOU TO BE THE FIRST TO SAVOR THIS JELLY-LIKE DISH,
THIS IS ALL ABOUT EXPERIENCING THAT SIGNATURE SHARK AROMA.
SURE, IT MAY HAVE A UNIQUE TASTE THAT NOT EVERYONE WOULD RAVE ABOUT.
BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT DEPENDING ON HOW IT'S COOKED, THAT DISTINCT ODOR CAN ACTUALLY TRANSFORM INTO A BOLD FLAVOR!
THEN LET'S GET THIS FEAST STARTED!!
21
TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN, I'LL BE CALLING IN REINFORCEMENTS FROM AUSTRALIA.
WHAT IS IT?!
ABSOLUTELY!
FROM AUSTRALIA?

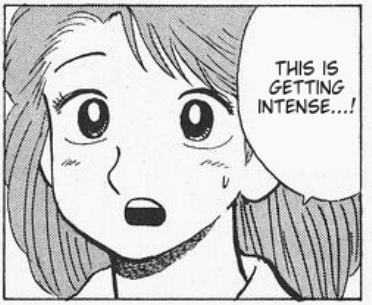

THE REMARKABLE THING ABOUT AUSTRALIANS IS THAT THEY DON'T JUST FEAR OR SHUN THOSE SHARKS.
THE WATERS AROUND AUSTRALIA ARE TEEMING WITH SHARKS.

I'LL CALL HIM OVER.
HE'S A WIZARD AT TURNING SHARK INTO A CULINARY DELIGHT.
IN ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA, THERE'S AN EXTRAORDINARY CHEF.

22



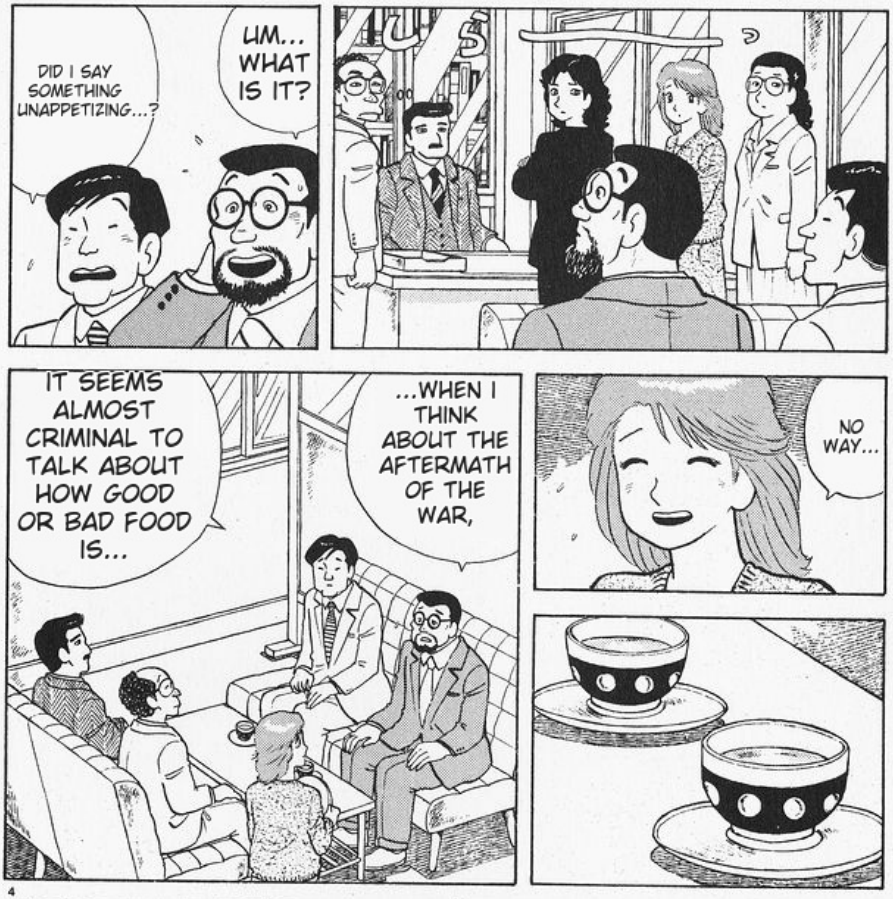
A MASTER OF SHARK CUISINE...


THIS IS GETTING INTENSE...!

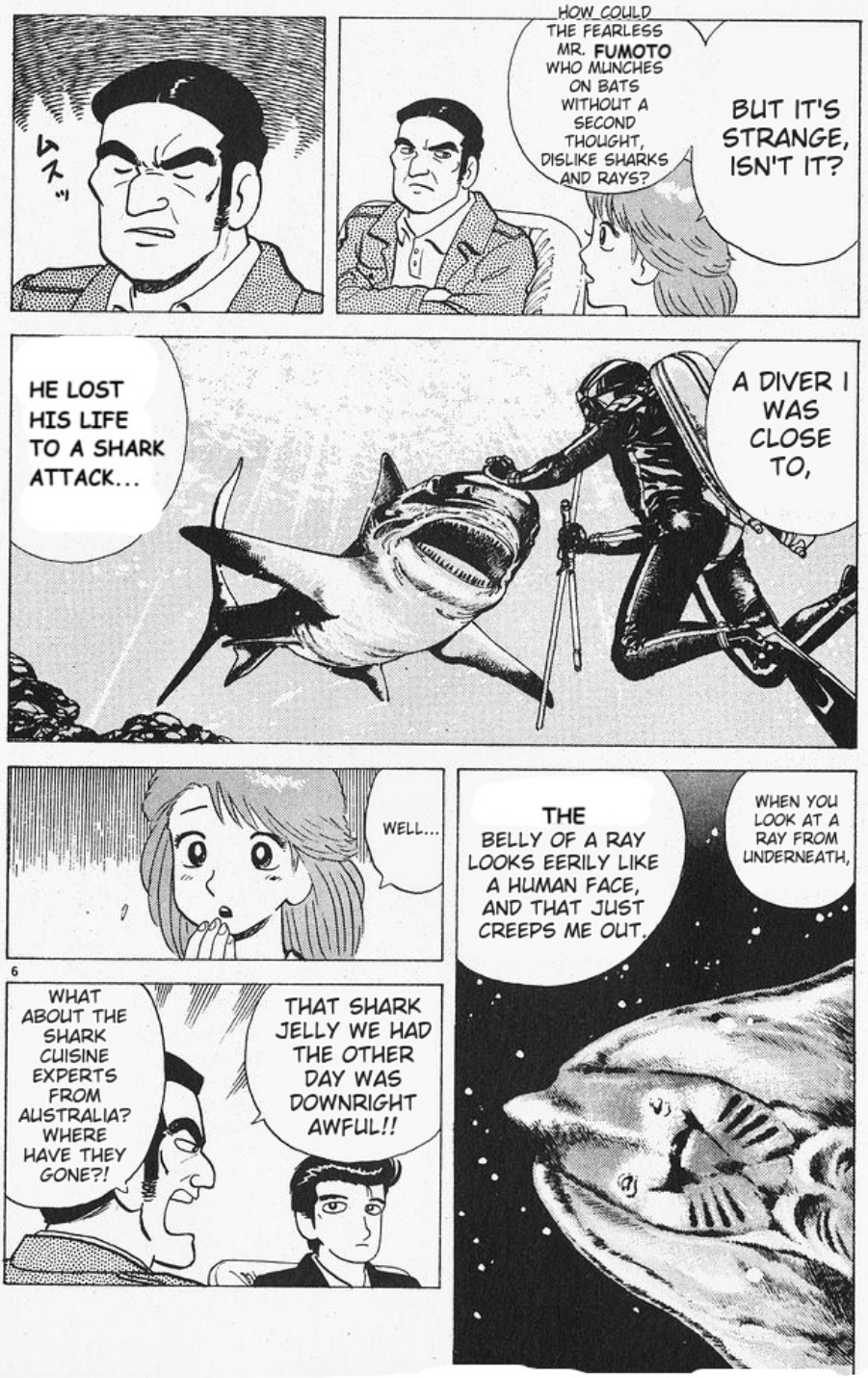
第2話
エイと鮫（さめ）〈中編〉

I CAN'T SAY I HAVE ANY DESIRE TO EAT SHARKS OR RAYS EITHER.
東西新聞社
EXACTLY, RAY FILLETS WERE PART OF THE RATIONS WE GOT.
IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE WAR, WE WERE FORCED TO CHOW DOWN ON SHARKS AND RAYS, AND LET ME TELL YOU, THE MEMORIES ARE FAR FROM PLEASANT!
HONESTLY, I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO EVEN THINK ABOUT EATING THEM.
WHEN YOU THINK OF SHARKS, THE IMAGE OF MAN-EATERS LOOMS LARGE, DOESN'T IT?
AS FOR SHARKS, COUNT ME OUT! I'M NOT A FAN OF RAYS EITHER.
LOOKING BACK, IT'S TRULY SAD TO THINK WE ACTUALLY ATE THAT STUFF...
2
STILL, BACK THEN, IT WAS ALL ABOUT STUFFING SOMETHING INTO OUR BELLIES...
THOSE DAYS, TASTE WAS A LUXURY WE COULDN'T AFFORD,
OH, THEY LOOK QUITE SIMILAR TO SHARKS, DON'T THEY?
THEY WOULD SIMMER RAY FILLETS IN SOY SAUCE, BUT OH, THE AMMONIA STENCH WAS OVERWHELMING!

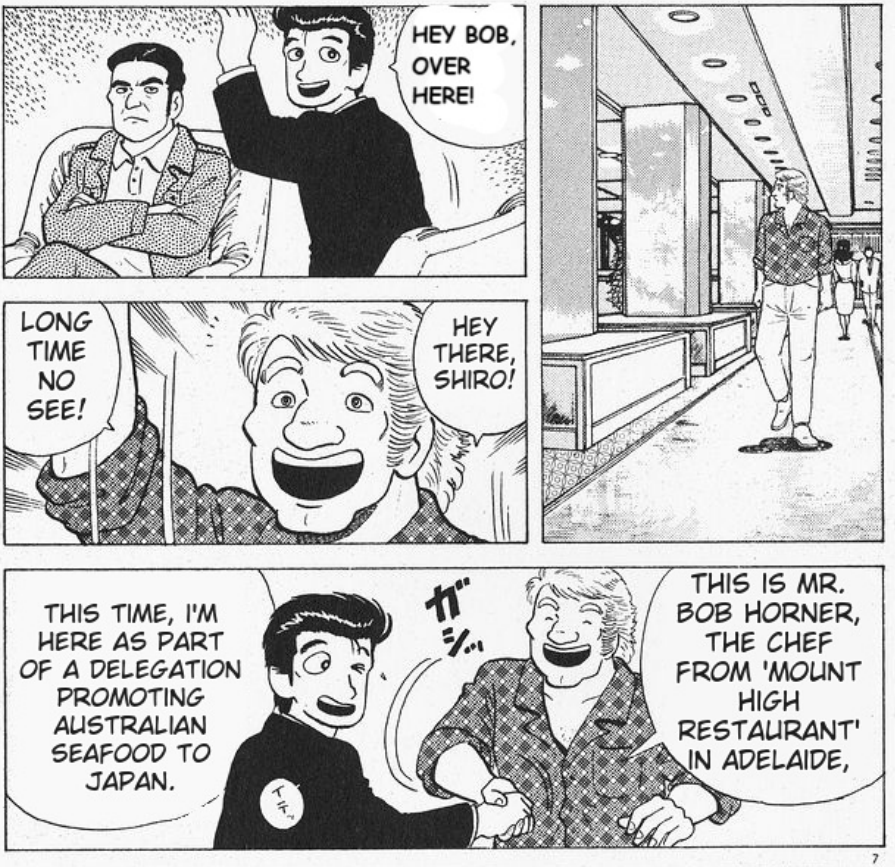
DELICIOUSNESS, VOLUME 17!


DID I SAY SOMETHING UNAPPETIZING...?
UM... WHAT IS IT?
IT SEEMS ALMOST CRIMINAL TO TALK ABOUT HOW GOOD OR BAD FOOD IS...
...WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE AFTERMATH OF THE WAR,
NO WAY...
4
I DON'T SEE IT THAT WAY.
THEY'RE BIZARRE DELICACIES! SHARKS AND RAYS.
SHARKS AND RAYS, DEPENDING ON HOW YOU COOK THEM, COULD BE IN THE REALM OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU.'
THAT'S JUST A PREJUDICE!
WELL, THAT CERTAINLY LOWERS THE BAR FOR BOTH ULTIMATE AND SUPREME, DOESN'T IT?
SHARKS AND RAYS, HUH...

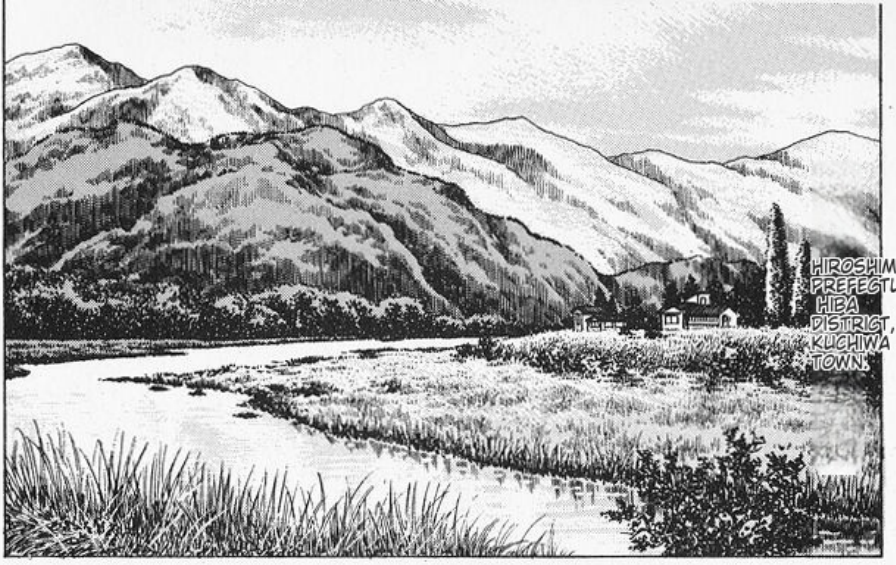
DELICIOUS ADVENTURES 7


ムスッ
HOW COULD THE FEARLESS MR. FUMOTO WHO MUNCHES ON BATS WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, DISLIKE SHARKS AND RAYS?
BUT IT'S STRANGE, ISN'T IT?
HE LOST HIS LIFE TO A SHARK ATTACK...
A DIVER I WAS CLOSE TO,
WELL...
THE BELLY OF A RAY LOOKS EERILY LIKE A HUMAN FACE, AND THAT JUST CREEPS ME OUT.
WHEN YOU LOOK AT A RAY FROM UNDERNEATH,
WHAT ABOUT THE SHARK CUISINE EXPERTS FROM AUSTRALIA? WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?!
THAT SHARK JELLY WE HAD THE OTHER DAY WAS DOWNRIGHT AWFUL!!

DELICIOUSNESS, VOLUME 17!



LET'S DIVE RIGHT IN AND FEAST!
はっはっはっ
SHIRO HASN'T CHANGED A BIT SINCE THE OLD DAYS!
イラ
OK。
HIROSHIMA?
LET'S MAKE OUR WAY TO HIROSHIMA.
WHERE SHOULD WE HEAD TO?
8
WHY?
HIROSHIMA, YOU SAY?
IS THERE A GOOD SHARK LURKING IN HIROSHIMA?

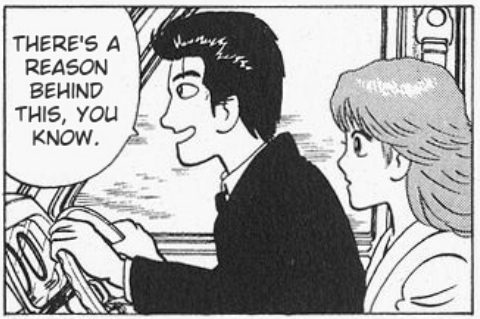

HIROSHIMA PREFECTURE, HIBA DISTRICT, KUCHIWA TOWN.

ガタ
ゴト
WE'VE COME QUITE DEEP INTO THE MOUNTAINS, HAVEN'T WE?

ブルルルル

I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL BY THE SEASIDE...
WEREN'T WE GOING TO GET A SHARK?

9


THERE'S A REASON BEHIND THIS, YOU KNOW.

DO THEY CATCH SHARKS IN THE MOUNTAINS?
UNBELIEVABLE, ISN'T IT!
ゴト
ゴト

WHAT IS THIS PLACE, ANYWAY?
IT SAYS 'CROCODILE CUISINE' HERE, DOESN'T IT?
まんさく茶屋
HELLO!
OH, YAMAOKA-SAN, WELCOME!
10
CAN WE REALLY EAT SHARK DISHES IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?!
WOW... IT REALLY DOES FEEL LIKE A MOUNTAIN TEAHOUSE!
YES, YES, WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!
I BROUGHT A WHOLE CROWD WITH ME,

SO, IT'S LIKE AMATEUR COOKING, A HOME-COOKED MEAL, THEN.
AH...
WE TAKE TURNS BEING IN CHARGE OF THE COOKING.
THIS RESTAURANT IS RUN BY THE LOCAL HOUSEWIVES,
THIS RESTAURANT WAS ESTABLISHED UNDER MR. KOBAYASHI'S GUIDANCE, RIGHT?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK COMING ALL THE WAY TODAY.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MR. KOBAYASHI, A LIFE IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST FROM THE HIROSHIMA PREFECTURAL SHOBARA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.
THE SHARKS USED HERE COME FROM THE IKOZAKI FISHING PORT IN ODA CITY, SHIMANE PREFECTURE, AS WELL AS FROM KOCHI IN SHIKOKU AND KATSUURA IN WAKAYAMA.
HO HO HO, OF COURSE!
I BUY IT AND TRANSPORT IT HERE.
MR. KOBAYASHI SAID HE WANTS TO PRESERVE THE TRADITIONAL DISH OF THIS REGION, CROCODILE CUISINE, FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.
THAT'S RIGHT!
11
SURELY, THERE'S NO WAY TO CATCH A SHARK IN THE MOUNTAINS...
BUT, WHY SHARK CUISINE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MOUNTAINS?

NO, SHARKS AREN'T EATEN IN EITHER THE SAN'IN REGION OR SHIKOKU.
OF COURSE! THE FISH TASTES BEST RIGHT WHERE IT'S CAUGHT! THAT FOOL YAMAOKA GOT THE DESTINATION ALL WRONG!
SO THE REAL SHARK CUISINE HOTSPOTS ARE PLACES LIKE OTA CITY AND KOCHI, HUH?
YES, REGIONS IN JAPAN WHERE YOU CAN EAT SHARK AS FRESH FISH INSTEAD OF PROCESSED PRODUCTS ARE PRETTY RARE.
WHAT? THEY DON'T EAT IT AT THE FISHING PORTS WHERE SHARKS ARE CAUGHT, BUT INSTEAD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MOUNTAINS?
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT...?
SHARK COMES INTO THOSE FISHING PORTS, BUT THEY DON'T EAT IT.
BUT WE'RE THE PLACE THAT EATS THE MOST OF IT!
12
WOW... SO YOU ONLY EAT IT IN THE MOUNTAINS AND NOT NEAR THE SEA?
THE MOST ENTHUSIASTIC EATERS ARE ACTUALLY IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF THIS CHUGOKU REGION, KNOWN AS OKUBINGO.
I'VE HEARD IT'S ALSO EATEN IN SOME PARTS OF KYOTO, SHIGA, AND NAGASAKI,
日和
庄原市
尾道市
広島市

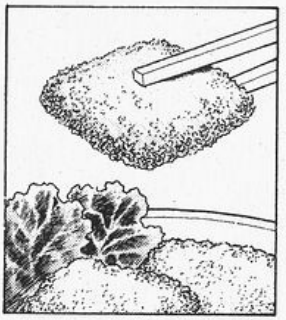
WHILE REGULAR FISH MIGHT ONLY LAST THREE DAYS AT BEST, SHARKS CAN STAY FRESH FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS!
SHARKS HAVE UNDERDEVELOPED URINARY SYSTEMS, WHICH LEADS TO A BUILDUP OF AMMONIA IN THEIR BODIES. THANKS TO THIS, THEY RESIST DECAY LIKE CHAMPIONS!
HOWEVER, SHARKS ARE FISH THAT RESIST DECAY LIKE CHAMPIONS!
BACK IN THE DAY, TRANSPORTATION WAS A MERE WHISPER OF WHAT IT IS NOW, AND WITHOUT REFRIGERATORS, FRESH FISH WAS A TREASURE THAT ELUDED THOSE IN THE MOUNTAINS.
WHY WOULD THAT BE?
IN COASTAL LANDS, THERE ARE COUNTLESS FISH YOU CAN SAVOR FRESH, ASIDE FROM SHARKS; IT'S JUST THAT SHARKS HAVE BEEN A DELICACY ENJOYED ONLY IN THESE MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS.
WELL, HALF A MONTH!
13
THE LOVE OF SHARKS HERE RUNS DEEP AND STRONG!
THAT'S NOT THE CASE AT ALL! EVEN NOW, WITH ADVANCED DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, YOU CAN GET FISH CAUGHT FROM THE OCEAN ON THE VERY SAME DAY,
THEN, ISN'T THE SHARK JUST A SUBSTITUTE FOR OTHER FISH?!
WELL THEN, IF THE FOLKS AROUND HERE COULD GET THEIR HANDS ON FRESH FISH, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TOUCHED SHARK AT ALL!

CROCODILE CUISINE IS A CHERISHED TRADITION IN THIS REGION.
HMMM...
IN AUSTRALIA, REGARDLESS OF THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, EVEN COASTAL TOWNS FEAST ON SHARK.
BUT YOU KNOW... IF IT DOESN'T TASTE GOOD...
ALRIGHT THEN, LET'S GET STARTED.
WELL, LET'S DIVE IN AND GIVE IT A TRY. HERE WE GO!
IT'S A CORAL HUE, ISN'T IT?
AH... BEHOLD THE SHARK SASHIMI!
PLEASE ENJOY IT WITH SOME GINGER SOY SAUCE.
FIRST UP, THE SASHIMI.
14

DELICIOUS!

THIS TEXTURE MUST BE A BIT TOUGH FOR FIRST-TIMERS TO HANDLE.
WHOA! FLAVOR ASIDE, THIS GOOEY, STICKY SENSATION IS KIND OF OFF-PUTTING FOR ME!
OH... THAT CHEWY, SLICK TEXTURE.
AND HERE'S SOME FRIED CROCODILE.
AND THIS IS NANBAN-ZUKE.
IT'S YUBUKI.
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO FISHY SMELL! I PREFER THIS BY FAR OVER REGULAR SASHIMI!
SERIOUSLY! THAT PREVIOUSLY SLIMY SASHIMI HAS BECOME SO CRISP NOW...
YUBU-WHAT? SO THAT'S SASHIMI DIPPED IN HOT WATER...
15
THIS IS FANTASTIC!
MM!

HMM...
IN BRITAIN, THEY HAVE FISH AND CHIPS, WHERE THEY FRY UP WHITE FISH, AND THIS IS JUST THAT!



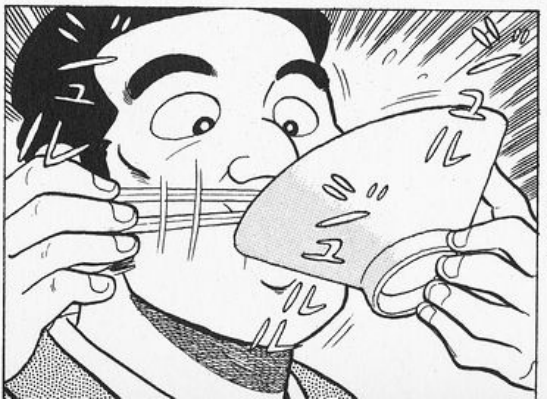
WHEN THE CROCODILE MEAT WARMS UP AND TURNS WHITE, IT'S JUST RIGHT TO EAT.
YES, THIS IS 'WANI CHAZUKE.'

IT'S MILD YET BURSTING WITH FLAVOR!
NANBAN-ZUKE IS GREAT TOO!

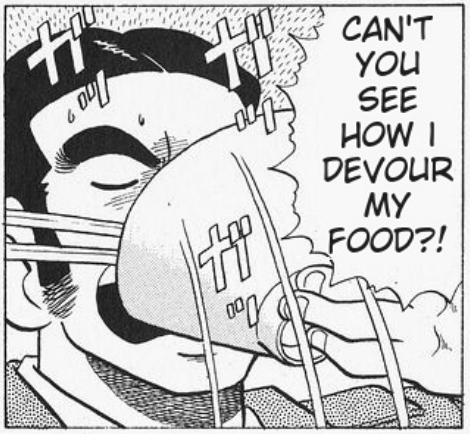
ガッ ガッ

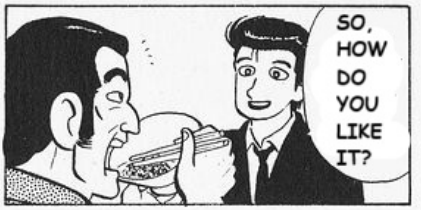
THIS MUSHROOM HAS A DELIGHTFUL TASTE!
WOW, IT HAS SUCH A REFRESHING FLAVOR!

16



THIS IS A FINELY CHOPPED SALTED MUSHROOM CALLED 'KAORI DAKE.'
WHAT'S THIS DARK ITEM HERE?


CAN'T YOU SEE HOW I DEVOUR MY FOOD?!


SO, HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

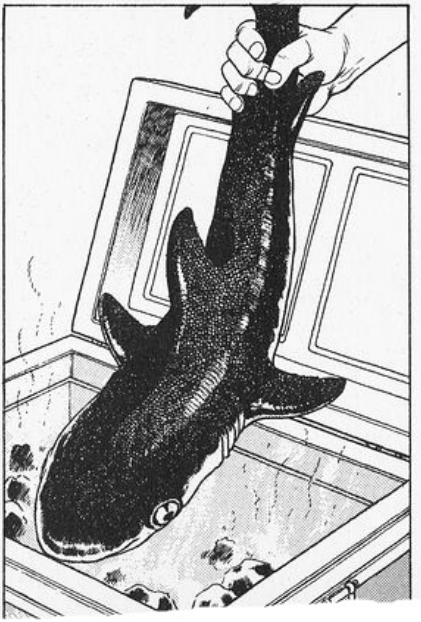
YOU HAVE TO TASTE MY COOKING TOO!
HOLD UP THERE, MATE!

I'M SO GLAD!

17

OH, YOU'RE USING BABY SHARK, HUH?

I'M BORROWING THE KITCHEN!



FUHPEUSALZI
ギュッ
HERE IT COMES, SAUTÉED BABY SHARK WITH ORANGE SAUCE!
PLEASE, MR. KOBAYASHI, THE LADIES OF THE SHOP INSIST TOO!
ORANGE SAUCE, YOU SAY?!
ARE YOU GOING TO SWEETEN IT UP BEFORE YOU DIG IN?

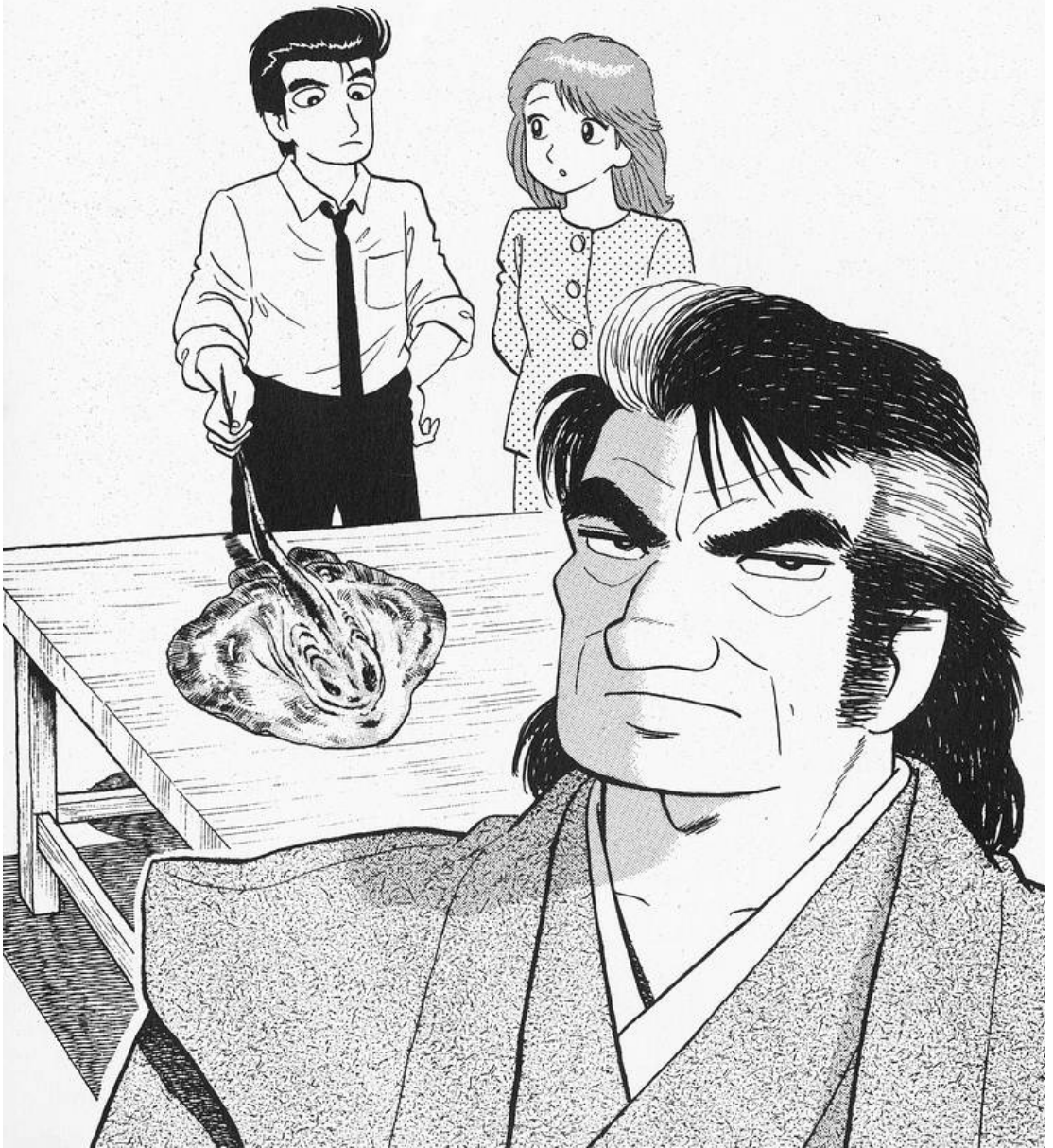
DELICIOUSNESS, VOLUME 17!

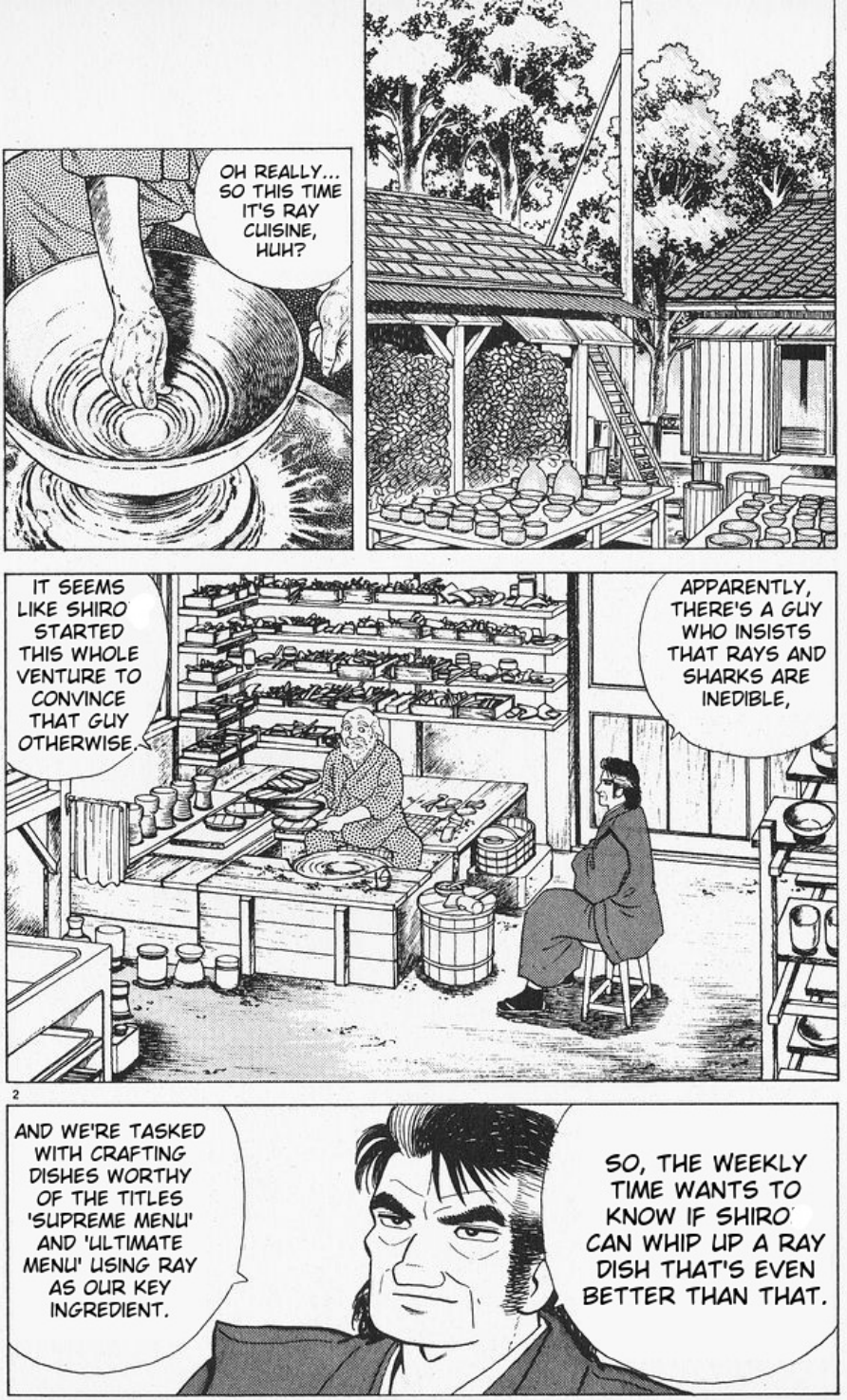
LEAVE IT TO ME!
IF YOU CAN'T MAKE ME THINK IT'S DELICIOUS, THEN YOU CAN'T CALL IT A WIN!!
HOLD ON!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
JUST WAIT A SECOND...
ARE YOU REALLY SUGGESTING WE USE RAY AS THE INGREDIENT TO PIT YAMAOKA AGAINST KAIBARA YUZAN?!
20
RAY, LIKE THE SHARK, IS ALSO AN UNFAMILIAR FISH TO THE JAPANESE PALATE...
THIS TIME, I WANT TO SEE A SIMILAR JUXTAPOSITION WITH RAY IN THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' VERSUS THE 'SUPREME MENU'.
THE CONTRAST BETWEEN BOB NOW AND THE LADIES' COOKING IN THIS ESTABLISHMENT WAS ABSOLUTELY FASCINATING.
WHAT? NO!!!

THEN THIS IS GOING TO BE QUITE THE CHALLENGE...
I WANT TO SEE THAT SHOWCASED IN A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AND THE 'SUPREME MENU'!
BUT IF THERE ARE SUCH FANTASTIC WAYS TO COOK SHARK, THEN SURELY THERE MUST BE FOR RAYS TOO!
LET'S DO THIS, SHALL WE?!
IF KAIBARA SAYS HE'LL DO IT,
WHAT DO YOU THINK...?
.....

美食倶楽部
WHAT?! RAY CUISINE, YOU SAY...?!
22
I'LL SHOW YOU A RAY DISH THAT BELONGS ON THE 'SUPREME MENU'!!!!
VERY WELL!

第2話
エイと鮫(さめ)〈後編〉



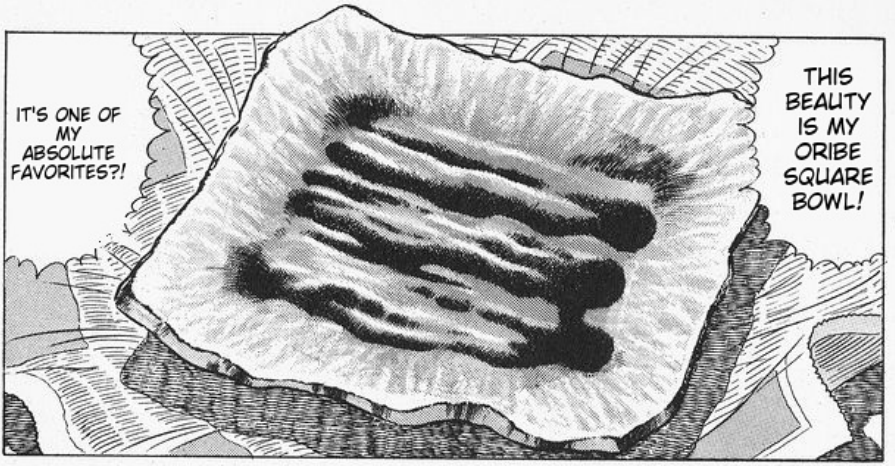

OH REALLY... SO THIS TIME IT'S RAY CUISINE, HUH?
IT SEEMS LIKE SHIRO STARTED THIS WHOLE VENTURE TO CONVINCE THAT GUY OTHERWISE.
APPARENTLY, THERE'S A GUY WHO INSISTS THAT RAYS AND SHARKS ARE INEDIBLE,
2
AND WE'RE TASKED WITH CRAFTING DISHES WORTHY OF THE TITLES 'SUPREME MENU' AND 'ULTIMATE MENU' USING RAY AS OUR KEY INGREDIENT.
SO, THE WEEKLY TIME WANTS TO KNOW IF SHIRO CAN WHIP UP A RAY DISH THAT'S EVEN BETTER THAN THAT.

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 7.

OH, THIS IS SPLENDID...
OH! HOLD ON, YUZAN! THAT'S NOT RIGHT!!
THOSE PIECES ARE MY TREASURES, EACH ONE A FAVORITE OF MINE!
THIS IS JUST PERFECT FOR SERVING THE EEL DISH I'VE ENVISIONED.
IGA RYOKUYU HIRABACHI WITH A BEAUTIFUL GLAZE.
I'VE ALREADY SENT EVERYTHING NOTEWORTHY OVER THERE.
HOWEVER, I'M AFRAID THAT TO PARTICIPATE IN MY POTTERY EXHIBITION NEXT MONTH IN NEW YORK, I...
WHAT'S THIS? YUZAN, YOU'RE A POTTER TOO, WHY NOT USE YOUR OWN PLATES?
4
代用…
SO, WELL... I THOUGHT I MIGHT USE ONE OF YOUR PLATES AS A STAND-IN FOR MY WORK...
OF COURSE, UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULDN'T USE SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK.

DELICIOUSNESS OVERLOAD!!!

I'M SO UNFORTUNATE TO HAVE SUCH A DISCIPLE...
THAT GUY, YUZAN, IS JUST THE WORST!
OH MY! DID HE REALLY TAKE AWAY YOUR PLATE?!
WHAT THE?! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?!
I KNOW THIS HOUSE INSIDE AND OUT, YOU KNOW!
HEHEHE,
OH MY, IT'S YAMAOKA-SAN AND YUKO-SAN!
EXCUSE THE INTRUSION!
HEY THERE!
6
GIVE ME THAT!!!
HUH.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!
SHIRO!


IT'S ONE OF MY ABSOLUTE FAVORITES?!
THIS BEAUTY IS MY ORIBE SQUARE BOWL!

WHAT? DID YOU ACTUALLY SELL THAT?
BUT WAIT A MINUTE, WHERE'S MY IGA GREEN-GLAZED FLAT BOWL GONE?

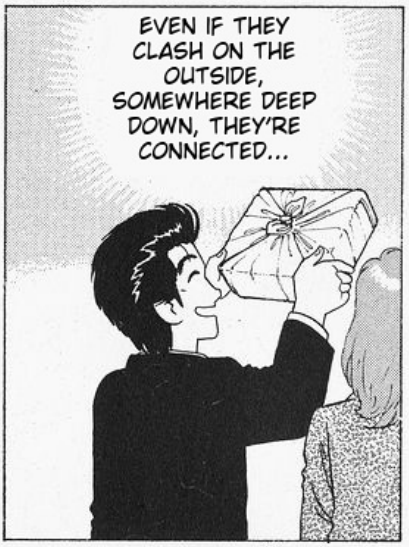
YOU THIEF! YOU'VE TAKEN MY TREASURE!
TIME TO WHIP UP SOME STINGRAY DELICACIES, JUST NEED TO GRAB A FEW THINGS FROM THE PANTRY!

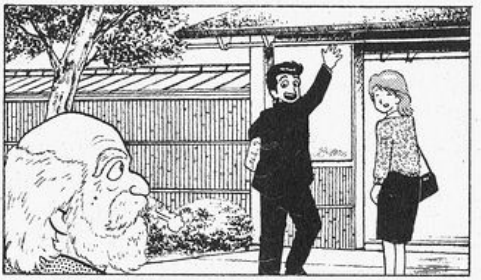
SHUT IT! JUST HURRY UP AND LEAVE ALREADY!
I'LL SERVE YOU A DELICIOUS STINGRAY FEAST, JUST YOU WAIT!!

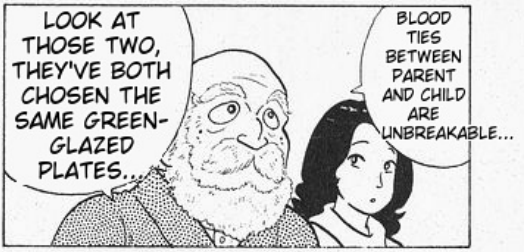
IT'S...
I DIDN'T SELL IT, YOU KNOW! THAT BOWL IS...

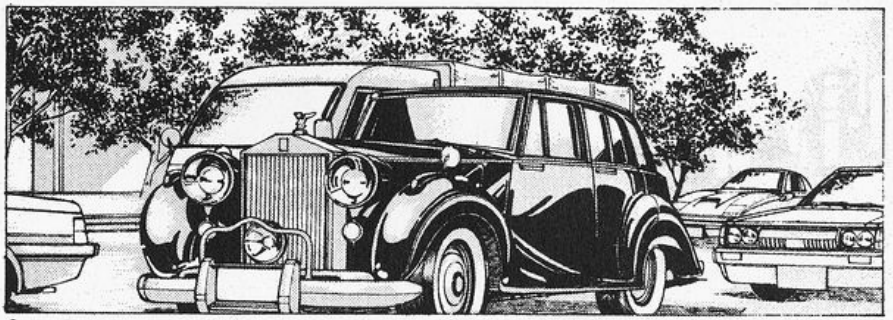
7

?
UGH... SO FRUSTRATING.


EVEN IF THEY CLASH ON THE OUTSIDE, SOMEWHERE DEEP DOWN, THEY'RE CONNECTED...



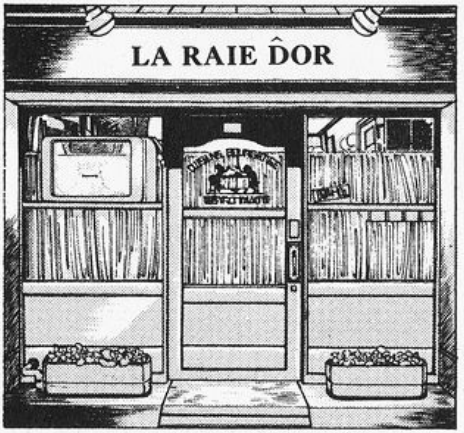

LOOK AT THOSE TWO, THEY'VE BOTH CHOSEN THE SAME GREEN-GLAZED PLATES...
BLOOD TIES BETWEEN PARENT AND CHILD ARE UNBREAKABLE...



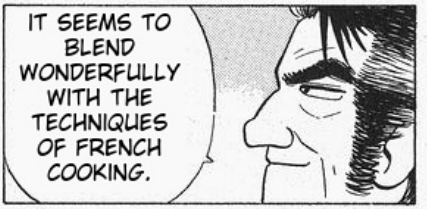
8

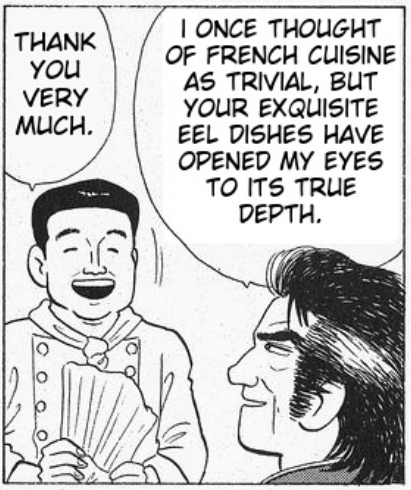
BUT DEPENDING ON THE COOKING METHOD, WHAT'S HIDDEN BENEATH THE SURFACE CAN TURN INTO SOMETHING DELICIOUS BEYOND IMAGINATION.

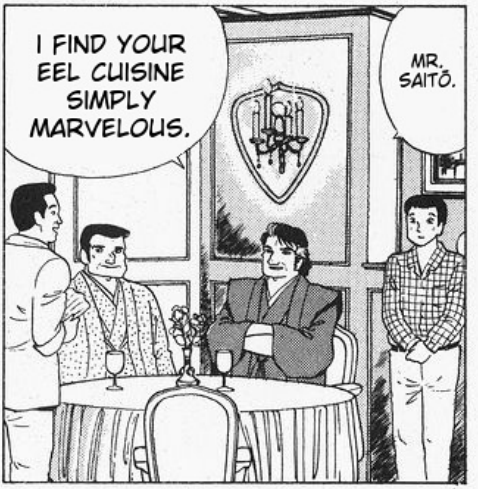
AND DEPENDING ON HOW IT'S PREPARED, IT CAN HAVE QUITE AN UNPLEASANT SMELL.
THE STINGRAY, IT'S A SIGHT TO BEHOLD, BUT NOT IN A PRETTY WAY.


LA RAIE ÔR

SIGH...


IT SEEMS TO BLEND WONDERFULLY WITH THE TECHNIQUES OF FRENCH COOKING.


I ONCE THOUGHT OF FRENCH CUISINE AS TRIVIAL, BUT YOUR EXQUISITE EEL DISHES HAVE OPENED MY EYES TO ITS TRUE DEPTH.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

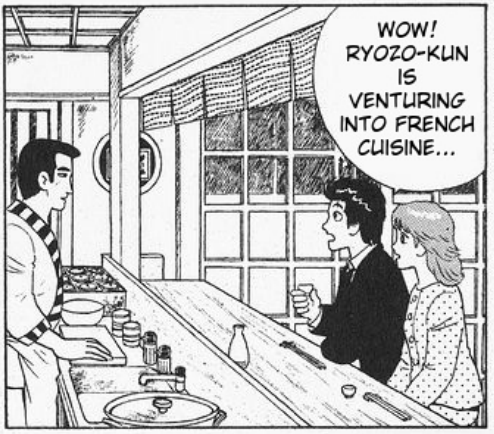

MR. SAITŌ.
I FIND YOUR EEL CUISINE SIMPLY MARVELOUS.

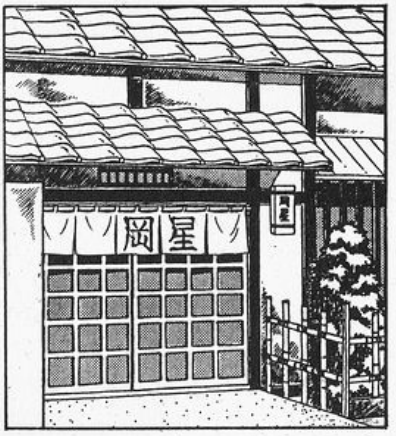
I'M NOT ASKING FOR A FREE LESSON, MIND YOU...

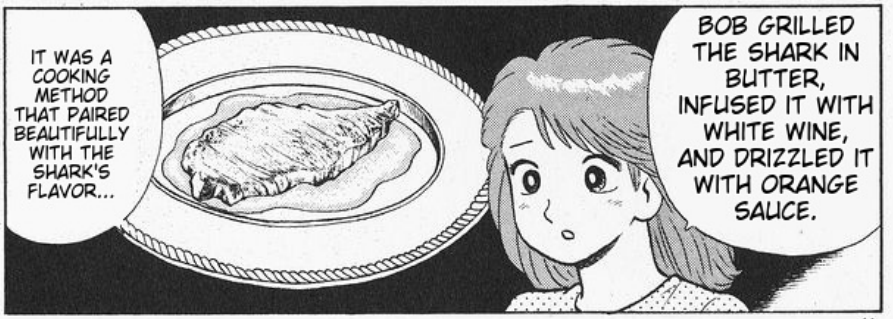
SO, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK:
COULD YOU TEACH THAT STYLE TO OUR CHEF, RYŌZŌ OKABOSHI?

BOLD AND FREE-SPIRITED, FLAWLESSLY UNRESTRAINED, YET WITH AN UNWAVERING PRECISION IN ITS FORM!
A HANDCRAFTED BOWL BY THE MASTER CERAMIST, TOYAMA TOJIN, FEATURING EXQUISITE IGA GREEN GLAZE.
OH WOW, THIS IS...!
I'M IN! PLEASE, LET ME DO THIS!
HOW ABOUT IT? ARE YOU READY TO WRESTLE WITH THIS PLATE?
THIS IS SIMPLY INCREDIBLE!
10
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!
EXCELLENT! WITH THE ESTEEMED ENDORSEMENT OF CHEF KAIBARA, HOW COULD I REFUSE?
NOT MUCH AT ALL, REALLY.
WHAT'S YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH FRENCH CUISINE?
I CAN VOUCH FOR THIS MAN'S INCREDIBLE TALENT.
I WOULD LOVE FOR THIS MAN TO EXPERIENCE THE WONDERS OF FRENCH CUISINE FIRSTHAND!

DELICIOUS!



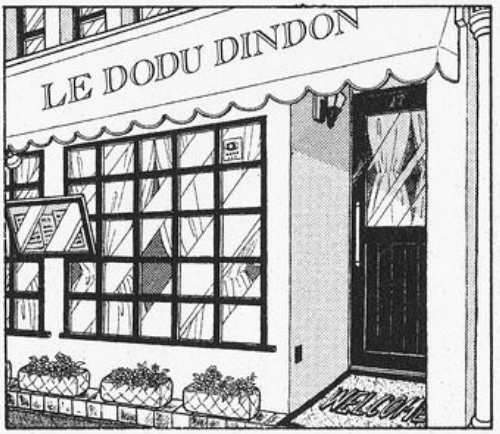


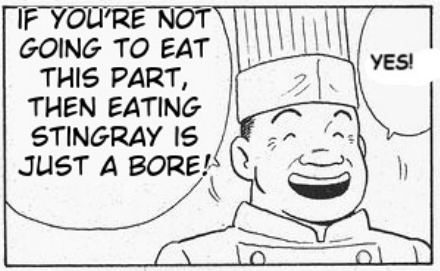


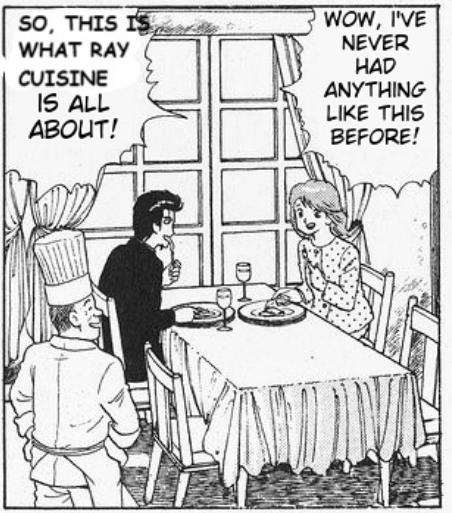
11

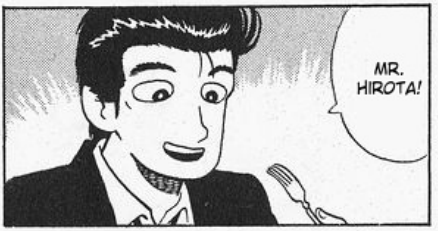
WHAT'S THIS?
I GRILLED SOME DRIED STINGRAY FINS.
IT'S THE IDEAL SNACK TO PAIR WITH A DRINK.
WOW, IT'S SO AROMATIC!
THE CRUNCHY TEXTURE IS JUST PERFECT.
IT'S DEFINITELY ONE-OF-A-KIND.
I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT THIS!!
HUH?
THIS IS IT...

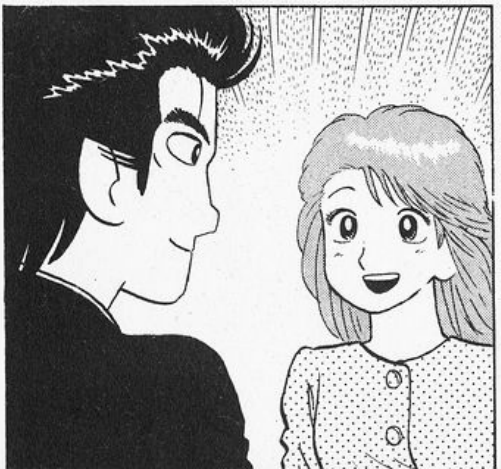
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 17

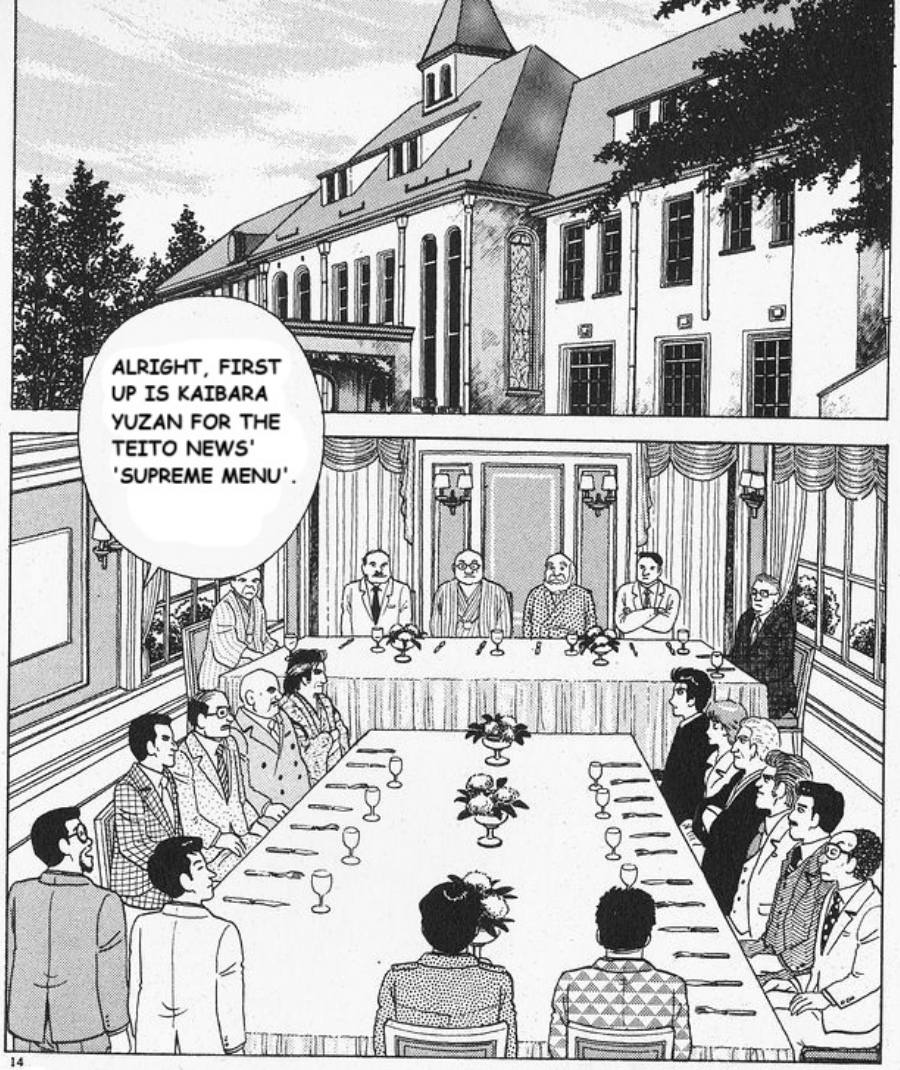








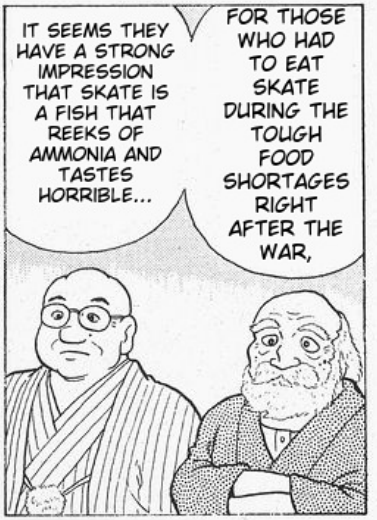



ALRIGHT, FIRST UP IS KAIBARA YUZAN FOR THE TEITO NEWS' 'SUPREME MENU'.
14

I DECIDED THAT THIS COULD BE THE STAR INGREDIENT OF THE 'SUPREME MENU.'
I AGREED TO USE RAY AS AN INGREDIENT BECAUSE...

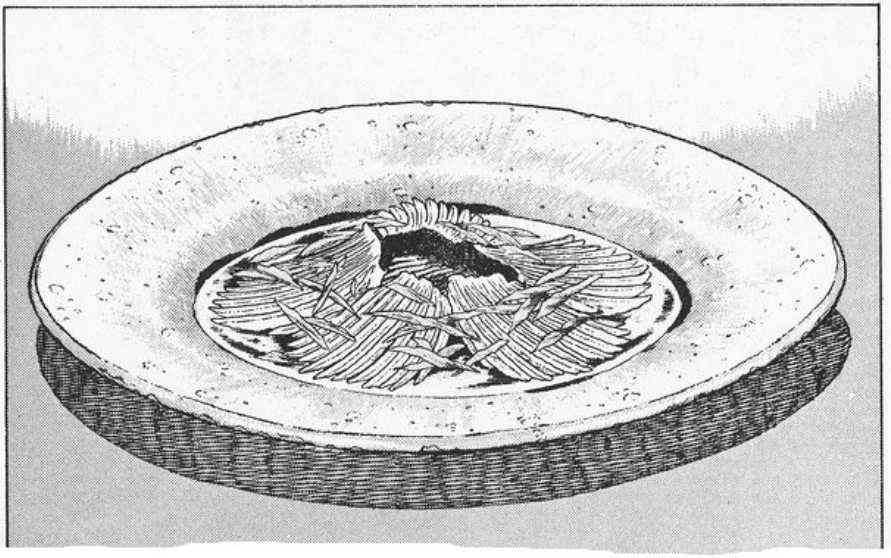
DELICIOUS!

IF YOU SKILLFULLY PREPARE FRESHLY CAUGHT SKATE, THERE'S NO WAY IT WILL SMELL OF AMMONIA.


IT SEEMS THEY HAVE A STRONG IMPRESSION THAT SKATE IS A FISH THAT REEKS OF AMMONIA AND TASTES HORRIBLE...
FOR THOSE WHO HAD TO EAT SKATE DURING THE TOUGH FOOD SHORTAGES RIGHT AFTER THE WAR,

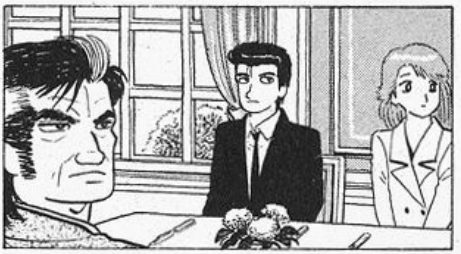
BUT IT'S CAPABLE OF BECOMING ONE OF THE FINEST FISH DISHES!
ON THE CONTRARY, IF YOU FULLY UNLOCK THE WONDERS OF ITS TEXTURE,

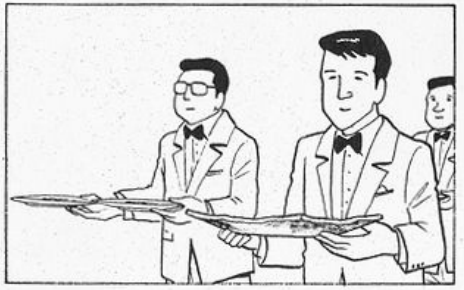
TODAY, LET'S PUT THAT TO THE TEST!

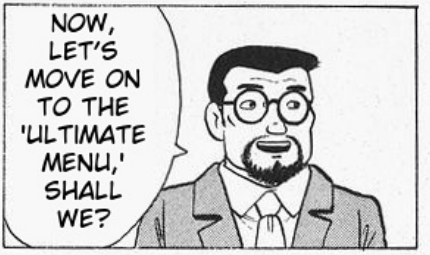


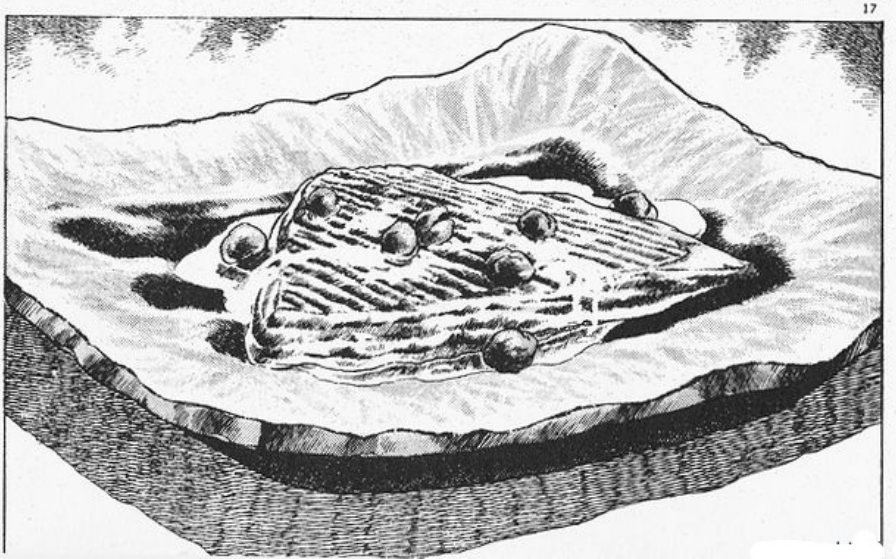
BUT THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE DEEP GREEN GLAZE AND THE STINGRAY'S PRISTINE WHITE IS SIMPLY STUNNING!
WOW! ENJOYING STINGRAY ON A PLATE BY MR. TOJIN IS SUCH A LUXURY!
CHEF KAIBARA, WHAT'S THAT EXQUISITE PLATE?
THIS PLATE IS MY CREATION, YOU KNOW.
HOW REFINED IT IS...
OH, INDEED!
THE TEXTURE IS SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE, LIKE A DELICATE HANABIRA MOCHI.
IT'S SUBTLE, YET THE RICH UMAMI OF THE STINGRAY LINGERS ON THE PALATE...
AND WHILE THE FLESH IS SOFT, IT STILL HAS THAT DELIGHTFUL CRUNCH!
16
I'LL SHRED THAT TENDER WHITE FLESH AND TOSS IT WITH A WARM DRESSING MADE FROM SHERRY VINEGAR, MELTED BUTTER, PEPPER, AND SALT.
FIRST, WE TAKE FRESH STINGRAY, BOIL IT THOROUGHLY WITH VINEGAR TO REMOVE ANY UNPLEASANTNESS,
THE STINGRAY USED HERE IS FROM HOKKAIDO'S GANGI-EI.
AND THIS DISH IS FROM CHEF SAITO OF 'LA RÉSERVE'.

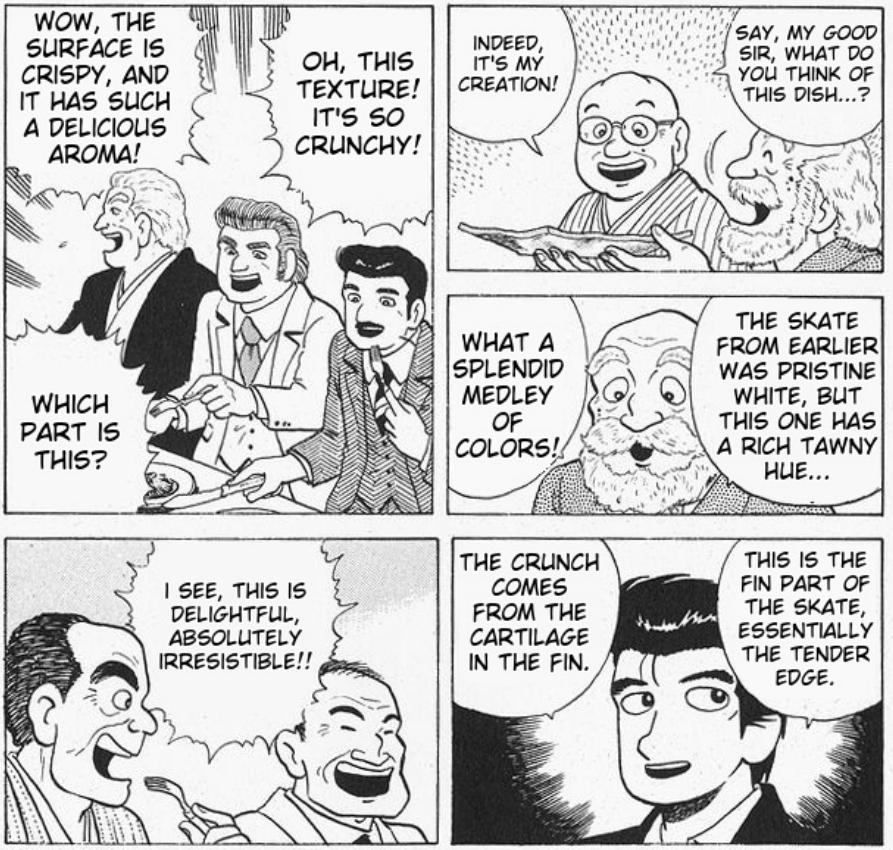
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 17



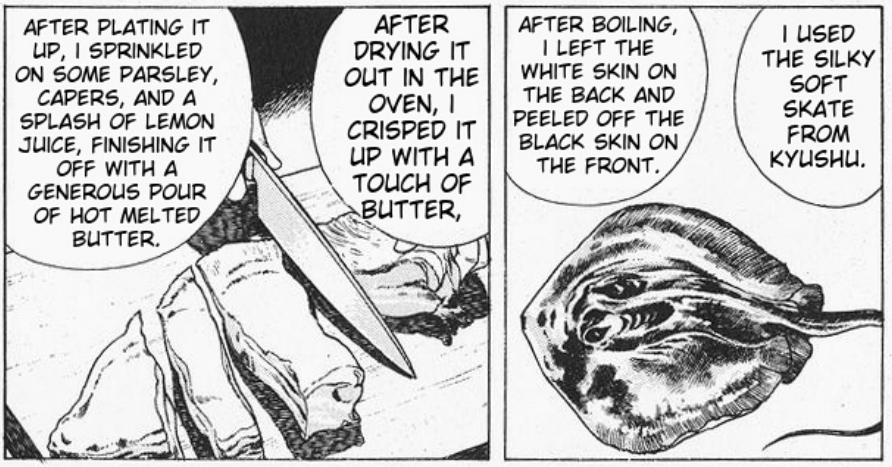







WOW, THE SURFACE IS CRISPY, AND IT HAS SUCH A DELICIOUS AROMA!
OH, THIS TEXTURE! IT'S SO CRUNCHY!
WHICH PART IS THIS?
INDEED, IT'S MY CREATION!
SAY, MY GOOD SIR, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS DISH...?
WHAT A SPLENDID MEDLEY OF COLORS!
THE SKATE FROM EARLIER WAS PRISTINE WHITE, BUT THIS ONE HAS A RICH TAWNY HUE...
I SEE, THIS IS DELIGHTFUL, ABSOLUTELY IRRESISTIBLE!!
THE CRUNCH COMES FROM THE CARTILAGE IN THE FIN.
THIS IS THE FIN PART OF THE SKATE, ESSENTIALLY THE TENDER EDGE.

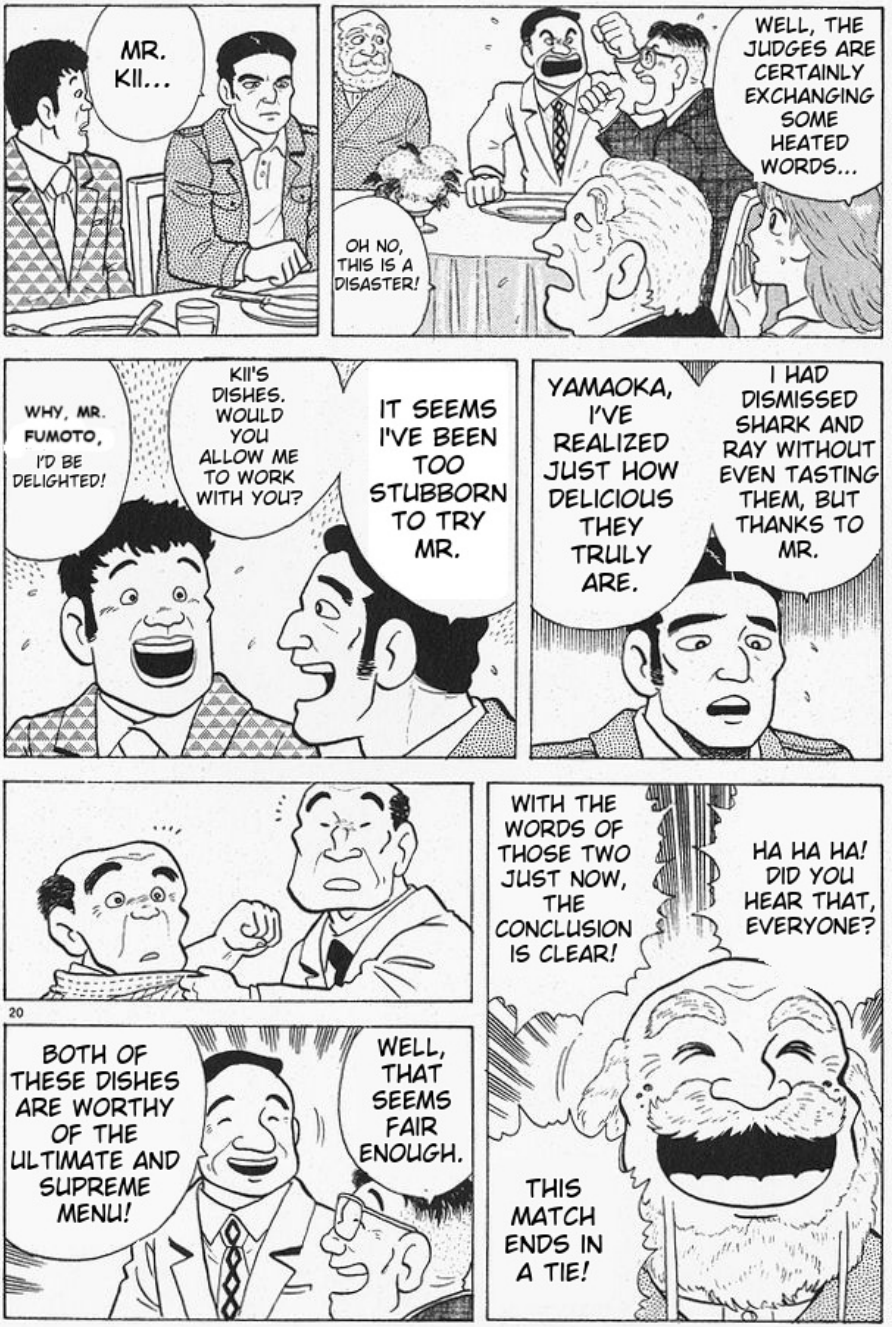
18

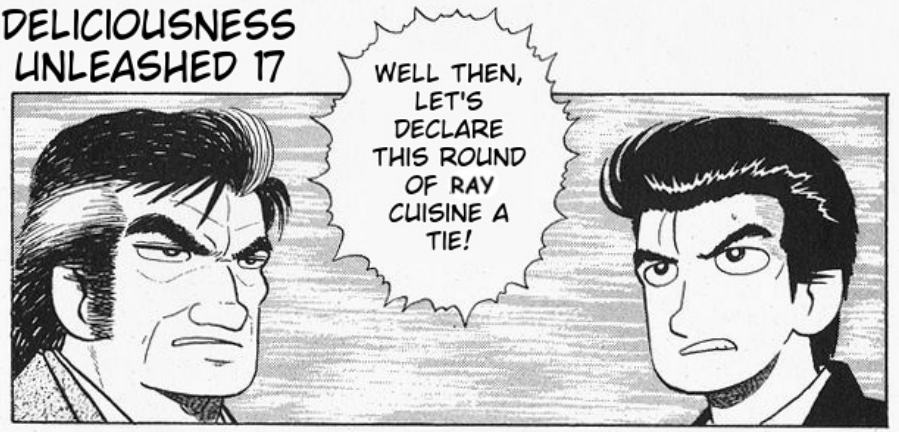

AFTER PLATING IT UP, I SPRINKLED ON SOME PARSLEY, CAPERS, AND A SPLASH OF LEMON JUICE, FINISHING IT OFF WITH A GENEROUS POUR OF HOT MELTED BUTTER.
AFTER DRYING IT OUT IN THE OVEN, I CRISPED IT UP WITH A TOUCH OF BUTTER,
AFTER BOILING, I LEFT THE WHITE SKIN ON THE BACK AND PEELED OFF THE BLACK SKIN ON THE FRONT.
I USED THE SILKY SOFT SKATE FROM KYUSHU.

DELICIOUS!

THE WILD, UNTAMED CHARACTER OF THE STINGRAY ISN'T SOMETHING TO STRIP AWAY; RATHER, IT SHOULD BE HIGHLIGHTED AND REFINED!
THIS EXQUISITE DISH WAS CRAFTED BY CHEF HIROTA FROM 'DODEYU DANDON'.
PLUCKING OUT ONLY THE BEST PARTS OF THE WHITE FLESH FOR AN ELEGANT FLAVOR IS TOO EASY!
NO, THINKING OF THE 'SUPREME MENU' THAT WAY IS JUST DULL.
IT'S NOT EASY AT ALL! IT REQUIRES INCREDIBLE SKILL!
ABSOLUTELY, THIS IS WHAT TRUE REFINEMENT LOOKS LIKE.
INDEED, THIS ELEGANT FLAVOR IS TRULY REMARKABLE.
HOWEVER, I MUST SAY, CHEF KAIBARA IS ON ANOTHER LEVEL ENTIRELY.

FIRST OF ALL, THAT CARTILAGE IS SO TOUGH THAT IT'S A REAL CHALLENGE FOR THE ELDERLY WITH WEAK TEETH!
NO WAY, THE STINGRAY'S EDGE IS WAY TOO BOLD FOR THE AVERAGE PALATE!
YOU REALLY CAN'T CRITIQUE COOKING, CAN YOU?!
AS A RESULT OF PURSUING THE STINGRAY'S UNIQUE ESSENCE, WE'VE CRAFTED A FLAVOR THAT STANDS ALONE— THIS 'ULTIMATE MENU' REIGNS SUPREME!


MR. KII...
WELL, THE JUDGES ARE CERTAINLY EXCHANGING SOME HEATED WORDS...
OH NO, THIS IS A DISASTER!
WHY, MR. FUMOTO, I'D BE DELIGHTED!
KII'S DISHES. WOULD YOU ALLOW ME TO WORK WITH YOU?
IT SEEMS I'VE BEEN TOO STUBBORN TO TRY MR.
YAMAOKA, I'VE REALIZED JUST HOW DELICIOUS THEY TRULY ARE.
I HAD DISMISSED SHARK AND RAY WITHOUT EVEN TASTING THEM, BUT THANKS TO MR.
20
BOTH OF THESE DISHES ARE WORTHY OF THE ULTIMATE AND SUPREME MENU!
WELL, THAT SEEMS FAIR ENOUGH.
WITH THE WORDS OF THOSE TWO JUST NOW, THE CONCLUSION IS CLEAR!
HA HA HA! DID YOU HEAR THAT, EVERYONE?
THIS MATCH ENDS IN A TIE!

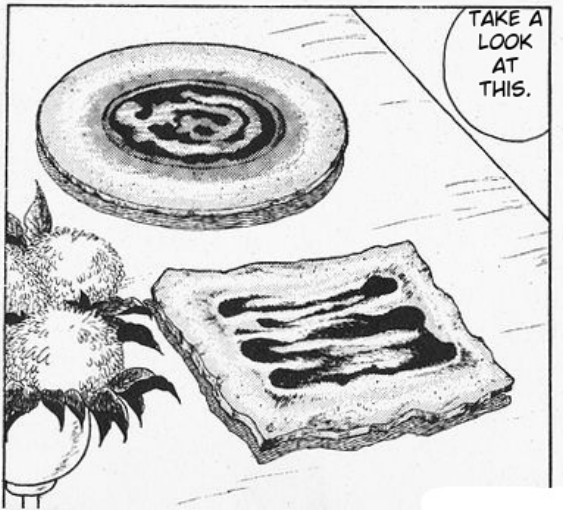

WELL THEN, LET'S DECLARE THIS ROUND OF RAY CUISINE A TIE!

COME HERE.
YUZAN, SHIRO...

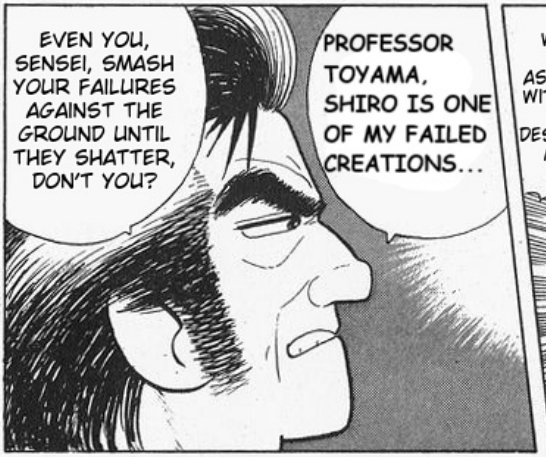
WHAT IS IT?

21

OH, THE IGA GREEN-GLAZED FLAT BOWL!


TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

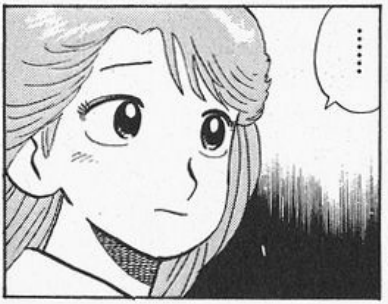
ISN'T IT TIME TO ACKNOWLEDGE EACH OTHER?
WITH YOUR FEELINGS AND THOUGHTS SO PERFECTLY ALIGNED, WHY DO YOU HARBOR SUCH HATRED?
YOU TWO CAME HERE FOR THIS IGA PLATE... YOU MUST HAVE THOUGHT IT MATCHED THE COLOR OF THE STINGRAY'S FLESH.


EVEN YOU, SENSEI, SMASH YOUR FAILURES AGAINST THE GROUND UNTIL THEY SHATTER, DON'T YOU?
PROFESSOR TOYAMA, SHIRO IS ONE OF MY FAILED CREATIONS...

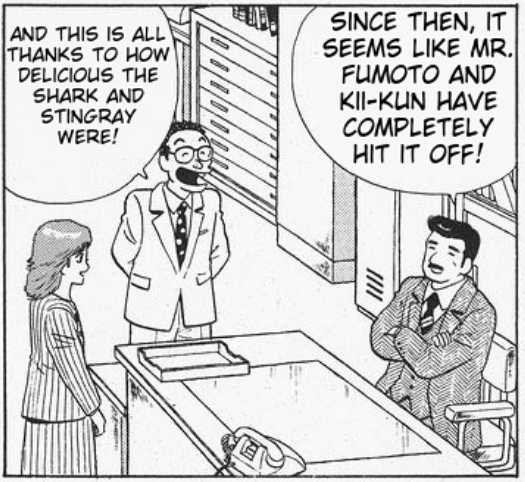
WHO WOULD EVER ASSOCIATE WITH SUCH A DESPICABLE MAN?!
OUR FEELINGS AND THOUGHTS ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!

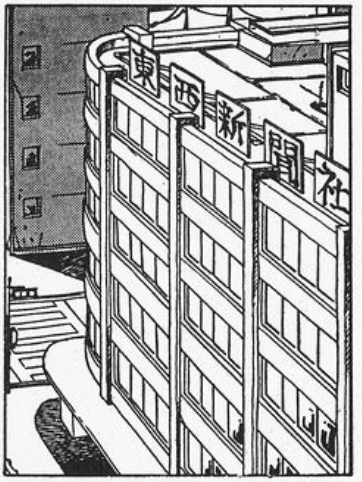
ガクリ

22

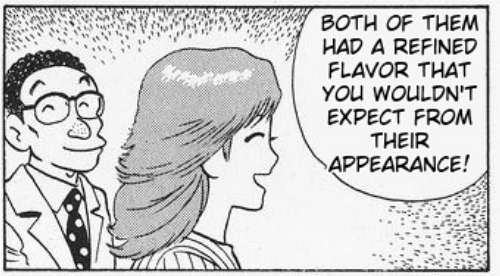

……

YOU BASTARD!

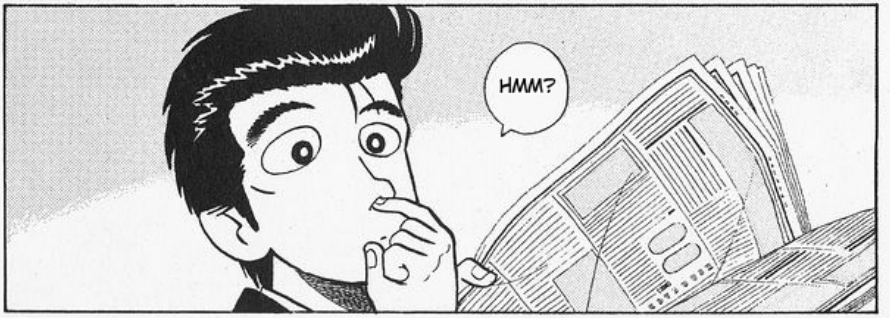

AND THIS IS ALL THANKS TO HOW DELICIOUS THE SHARK AND STINGRAY WERE!
SINCE THEN, IT SEEMS LIKE MR. FUMOTO AND KII-KUN HAVE COMPLETELY HIT IT OFF!

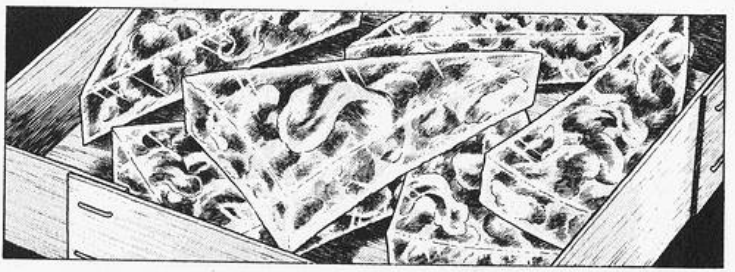

東西新聞社

AH... A PERSON WHO'S VULGAR BOTH INSIDE AND OUT...

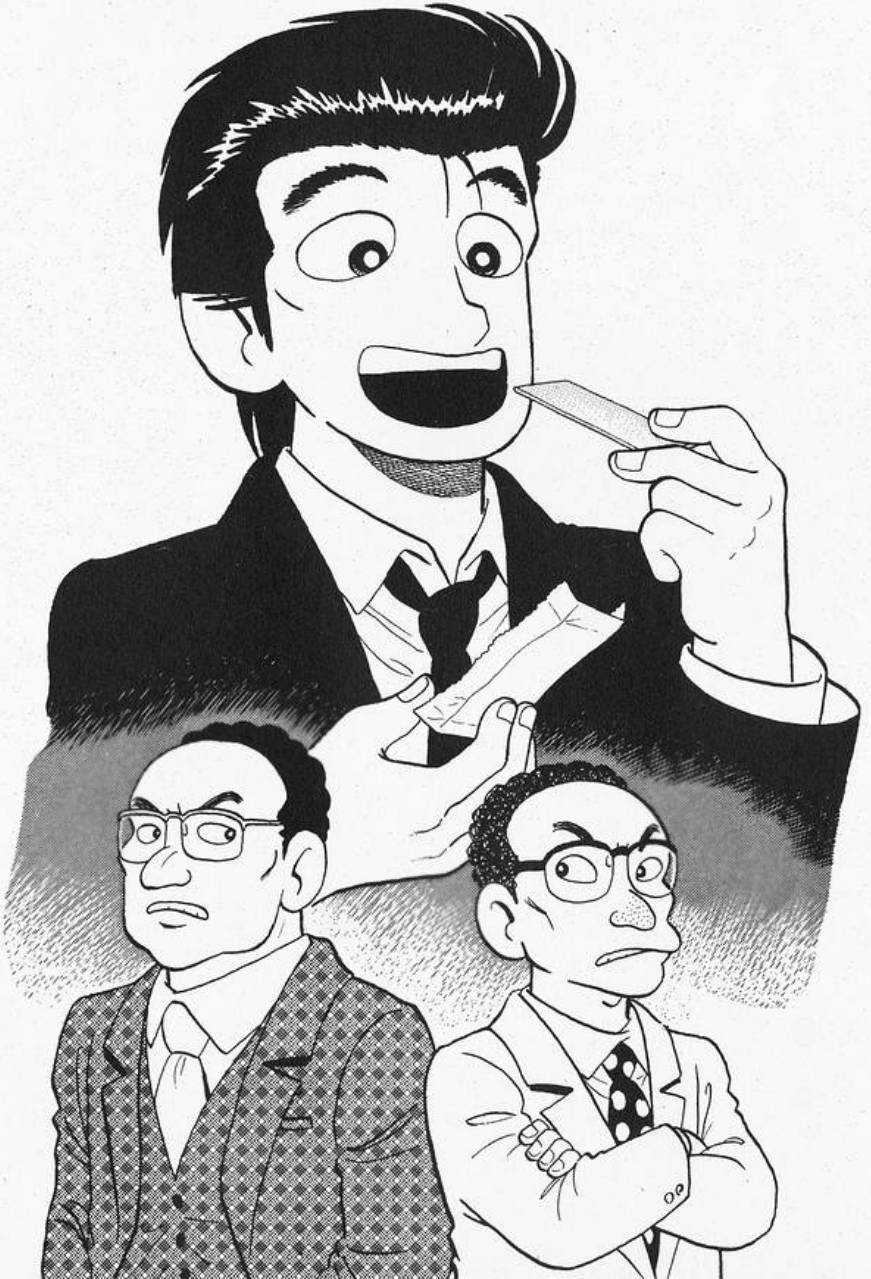

BOTH OF THEM HAD A REFINED FLAVOR THAT YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT FROM THEIR APPEARANCE!

23

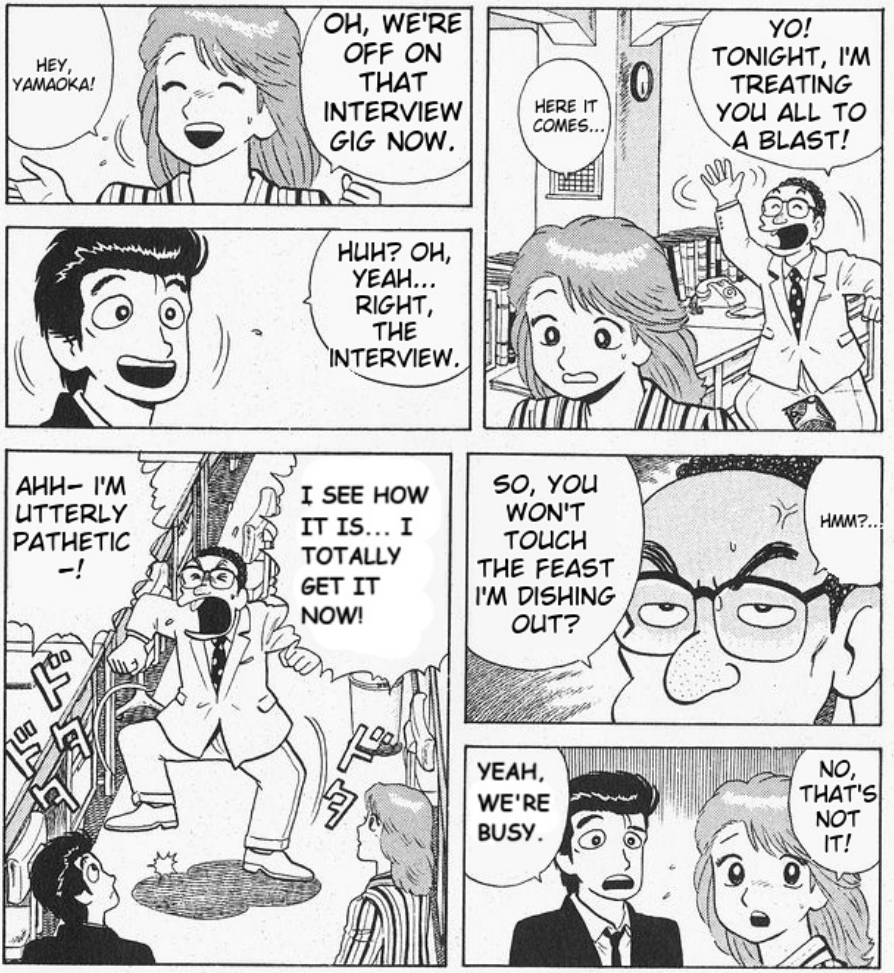

HMM?



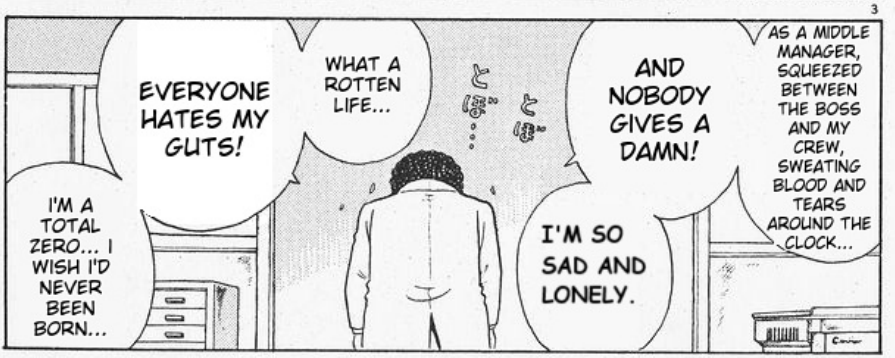
第3話　代用ガム



CARE TO JOIN ME TONIGHT?
SO, HOW ABOUT IT?
新聞社
I'M SORRY, BUT WE'VE GOT OTHER COMMITMENTS TODAY...
OH DEAR, WHAT A SHAME, ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'RE ALL DRESSED UP!
AH, LADIES, HOW ABOUT TREATING YOURSELVES TO SOMETHING DELICIOUS...?
WE HAVE PLANS, YOU SEE.
THAT'S DANGEROUS! THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON.
HE'S BEING UNUSUALLY FRIENDLY, ISN'T HE...?
2
HURRY UP! YAMAOKA-SAN, LET'S MOVE IT!
I CAN'T FIND MY TRAIN PASS!!!

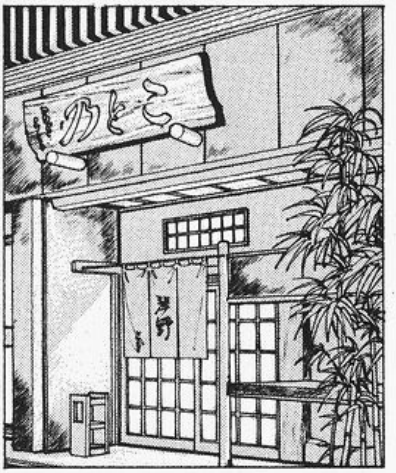

HEY, YAMAOKA!
OH, WE'RE OFF ON THAT INTERVIEW GIG NOW.
HUH? OH, YEAH... RIGHT, THE INTERVIEW.
HERE IT COMES...
YO! TONIGHT, I'M TREATING YOU ALL TO A BLAST!
AHH– I'M UTTERLY PATHETIC –!
I SEE HOW IT IS... I TOTALLY GET IT NOW!
ドドドド
ドゥ
SO, YOU WON'T TOUCH THE FEAST I'M DISHING OUT?
HMM?...
YEAH, WE'RE BUSY.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT!

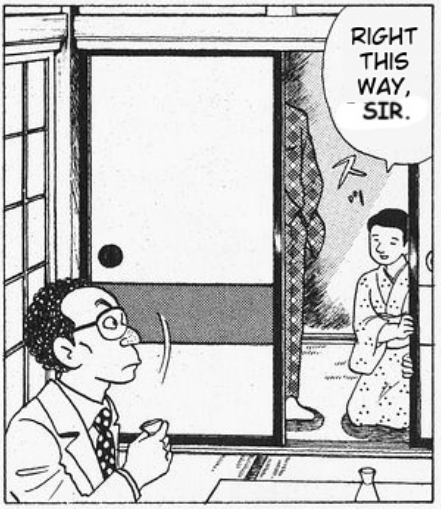
3


EVERYONE HATES MY GUTS!
WHAT A ROTTEN LIFE...
とぼ…
とぼ…
AND NOBODY GIVES A DAMN!
AS A MIDDLE MANAGER, SQUEEZED BETWEEN THE BOSS AND MY CREW, SWEATING BLOOD AND TEARS AROUND THE CLOCK...
I'M A TOTAL ZERO... I WISH I'D NEVER BEEN BORN...
I'M SO SAD AND LONELY.

SO, FIGURED YOU ALL COULD CRASH THE PARTY TOO...
WELL... TRUTH IS, I'M LINKING UP WITH MY BRO FOR A LONG-OVERDUE BITE.
LET'S ROLL! HITTING THE ROAD'S THE PLAY, RIGHT?!
ALRIGHT, FINE! WE'LL GO WITH YOU!!!!
ニカ
TODAY'S THE DAY TO HASH IT ALL OUT.
OUR FAMILY TEMPLE'S IN SOME REDEVELOPMENT MESS, SO WE GOTTA SHIFT DAD'S GRAVE PRONTO,
OH, NO, IT'S NOT A PROBLEM. YOU SEE...
OH MY, IF WE BUTT IN, WE'LL WRECK YOUR RARE BRO-BONDING SESH.
4
THERE'S SOMETHING SCREWY HERE...
...WHY THE HECK ARE YOU SO EAGER TO DRAG US ALONG?
I TOTALLY WANT YOU TO TAG ALONG!
BUT SERIOUSLY, IT'S NO SWEAT!

WHERE THE HELL IS HE?! IT'S BEEN OVER AN HOUR!!!




RIGHT THIS WAY, SIR.

HE DOESN'T RESPECT OUR FATHER ONE BIT!!
SERIOUSLY, OSAMU'S ALWAYS PULLING THIS CRAP!

TOMII-SAN, TAKE IT EASY THERE...

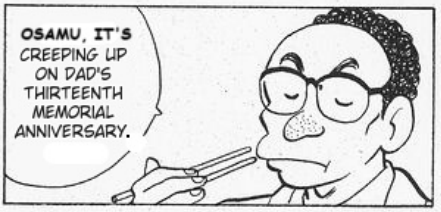
5

SPOT-ON IDENTICAL!
WHOA!

I'M NOT LIKE YOU, TOMIO. A DEADBEAT DESK DRONE - I'M SWAMPED AND LOVING IT!
AIN'T NO WAY AROUND IT, HUH?!
WHAT THE HECK WERE YOU UP TO? YOU'RE AN HOUR LATE!
I'M KURITA YUKO.
THIS IS YAMAOKA AND KURITA...
HEY THERE, FOLKS!
YOU JERK!!!
WHAT A FEISTY, FEUDING BRO DUO...
6
WHAT'D YOU JUST SAY?!
SO ARE YOU SKIMMING THE PROFITS OFF THE BACK OF THE WORKERS?
WE'RE IN THE WILD WORLD OF CONSTRUCTION!
SO YOU'RE THE PRESIDENT OF YOUR OWN COMPANY?
㈱富井土建興業
社長
富井 修

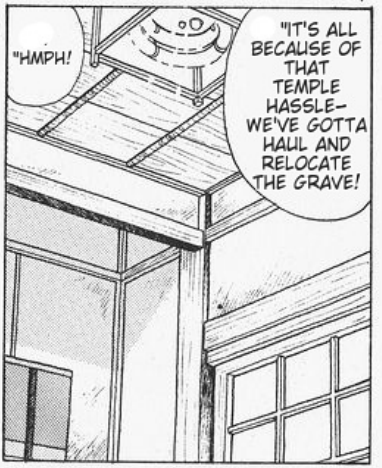
"THIS IS NO JOKE, YOU KNOW! WHY THE HECK DO WE HAVE TO GET DRAGGED INTO THE TOMII BROTHERS' FIGHT?
OH DEAR.

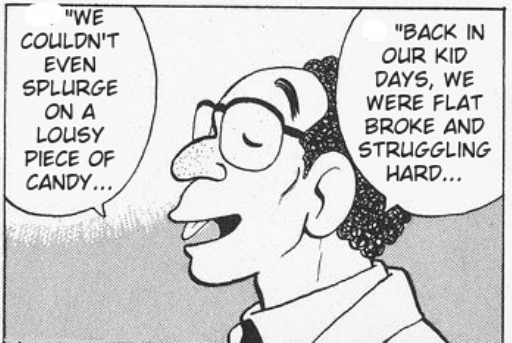
"EXCUSE ME FOR INTERRUPTING.

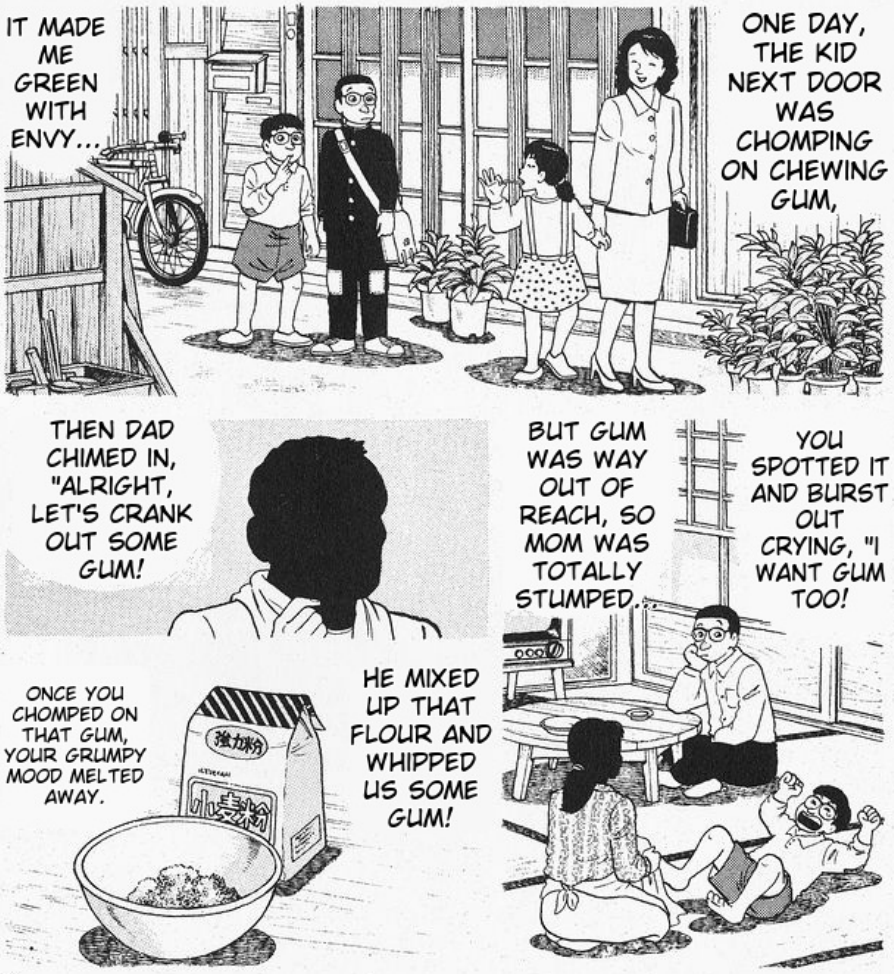

OSAMU, IT'S CREEPING UP ON DAD'S THIRTEENTH MEMORIAL ANNIVERSARY.

"OH, REALLY?

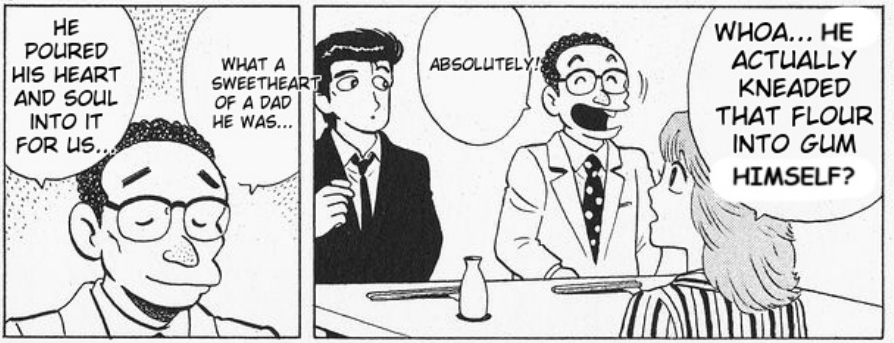
.....
"DAD WAS THE SWEETEST, MOST CARING FATHER EVER...

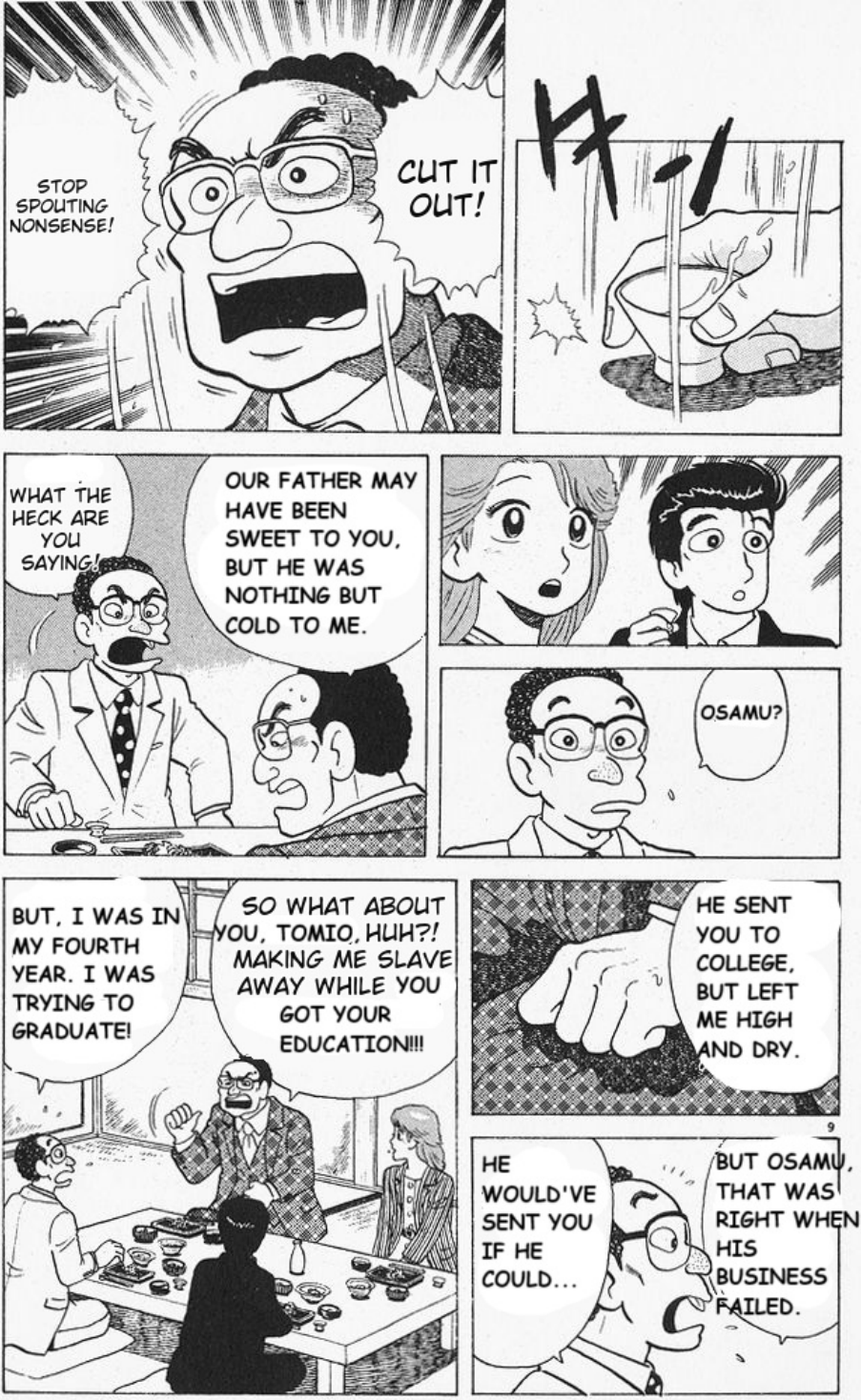

"HMPH!
"IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THAT TEMPLE HASSLE- WE'VE GOTTA HAUL AND RELOCATE THE GRAVE!


"WE COULDN'T EVEN SPLURGE ON A LOUSY PIECE OF CANDY...
"BACK IN OUR KID DAYS, WE WERE FLAT BROKE AND STRUGGLING HARD...


IT MADE ME GREEN WITH ENVY...
ONE DAY, THE KID NEXT DOOR WAS CHOMPING ON CHEWING GUM,
THEN DAD CHIMED IN, "ALRIGHT, LET'S CRANK OUT SOME GUM!
BUT GUM WAS WAY OUT OF REACH, SO MOM WAS TOTALLY STUMPED.
YOU SPOTTED IT AND BURST OUT CRYING, "I WANT GUM TOO!
ONCE YOU CHOMPED ON THAT GUM, YOUR GRUMPY MOOD MELTED AWAY.
HE MIXED UP THAT FLOUR AND WHIPPED US SOME GUM!

8

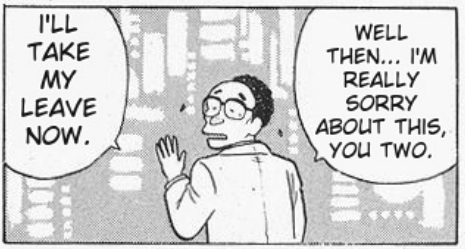

HE POURED HIS HEART AND SOUL INTO IT FOR US...
WHAT A SWEETHEART OF A DAD HE WAS...
ABSOLUTELY!
WHOA... HE ACTUALLY KNEADED THAT FLOUR INTO GUM HIMSELF?

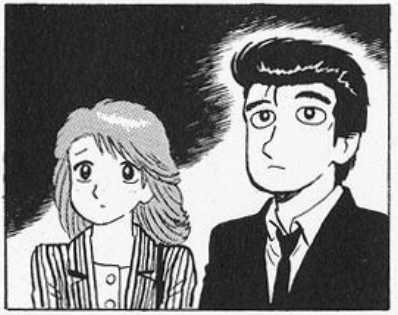

STOP SPOUTING NONSENSE!
CUT IT OUT!
ガ-ン
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU SAYING!
OUR FATHER MAY HAVE BEEN SWEET TO YOU, BUT HE WAS NOTHING BUT COLD TO ME.
OSAMU?
BUT, I WAS IN MY FOURTH YEAR. I WAS TRYING TO GRADUATE!
SO WHAT ABOUT YOU, TOMIO, HUH?! MAKING ME SLAVE AWAY WHILE YOU GOT YOUR EDUCATION!!!
HE SENT YOU TO COLLEGE, BUT LEFT ME HIGH AND DRY.
9
HE WOULD'VE SENT YOU IF HE COULD...
BUT OSAMU, THAT WAS RIGHT WHEN HIS BUSINESS FAILED.

EVEN BROKE AS WE WERE, HE DIDN'T MOPE—HE WHIPPED UP GUM FROM FLOUR LIKE A TOTAL SWEETHEART!
WELL, BLAME ME ALL YOU WANT FOR DITCHING COLLEGE, BUT BACK OFF DAD!
HE GAVE EVERY-THING TO YOU.
I NEVER WANTED THIS CONSTRUCTION GIG! I DREAMED OF BEING A SCHOLAR...
WHAT THE HECK? GUM FROM FLOUR? NO WAY!
WHAT ARE YOU SPOUTING? GUM FROM FLOUR? YOU MUST BE LOST IN A DREAM!
HUH?
10
SAYING DAD WAS KIND? THAT'S YOUR WILD DELUSION, TOMIO!
DELUSION, PURE AND SIMPLE!
KNEAD THAT FLOUR AND YOU JUST GET UDON DOUGH! HEAT IT UP AND IT TURNS ROCK-HARD!
?
THAT JUNK CAN'T PASS FOR GUM, RIGHT?!

WAIT, OSAMU!
HEY, IF YOU'RE ITCHING TO RELOCATE DAD'S GRAVE, KNOCK YOURSELF OUT! I'M WASHING MY HANDS OF THE WHOLE MESS!
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY... YEAH...
US BROTHERS, WE'RE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS...
.....
11
OH, NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT...
I'VE WRONGED YOU FOLKS BIG TIME.
SO, I FIGURED IF SOMEONE'S GOT MY BACK, WE MIGHT DODGE A BRAWL ALTOGETHER...
MY OLD MAN, EVER SINCE HE FLED CHINA BUCK NAKED AFTER THE WAR'S DEFEAT,
HE PRACTICALLY BUSTED HIS GUTS TRYING TO MAKE THINGS WORK...

I REALLY THOUGHT DAD WHIPPED UP SOME GUM SUBSTITUTE WITH THAT GOOD OL' AMERICAN FLOUR...
BUT STILL, IT'S A BIT STRANGE...
COULD I BE MISTAKEN ON THAT?


I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE NOW.
WELL THEN... I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS, YOU TWO.

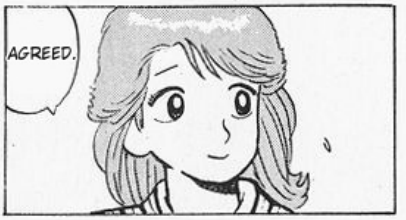


THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL, TOMII!
BYE.

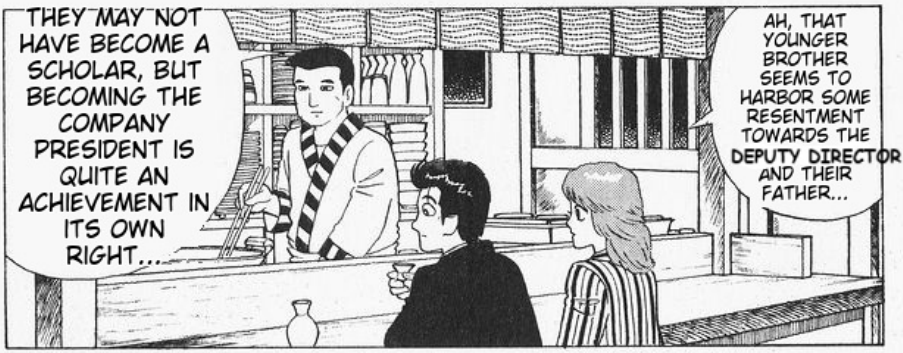
12

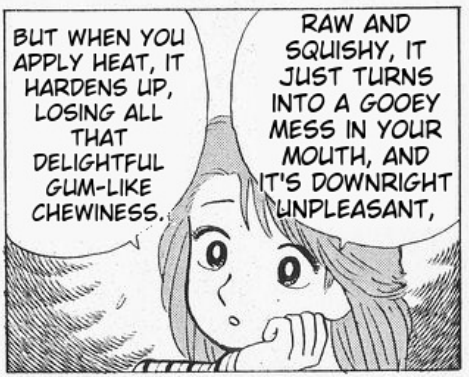
岡星

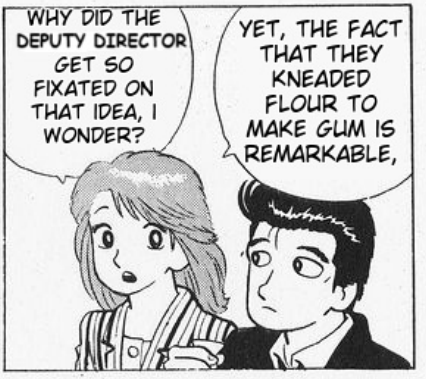
HOW ABOUT WE DO A LITTLE FIX-UP?
IT JUST FELT LIKE I WASN'T REALLY EATING ANYTHING.

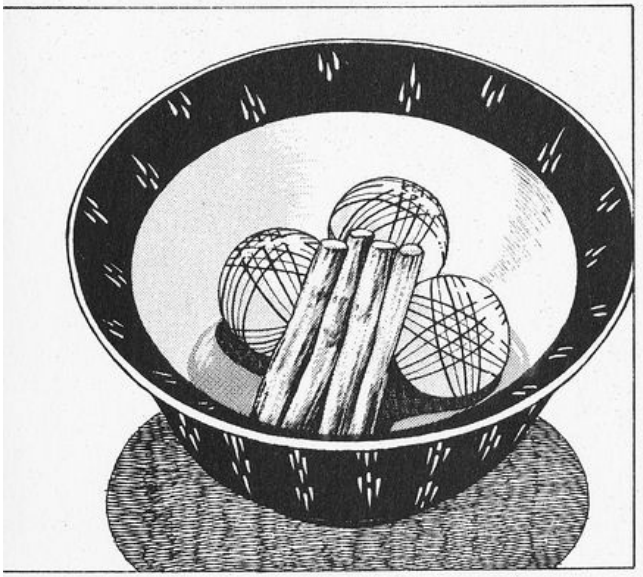

AGREED.

DELICIOUS!

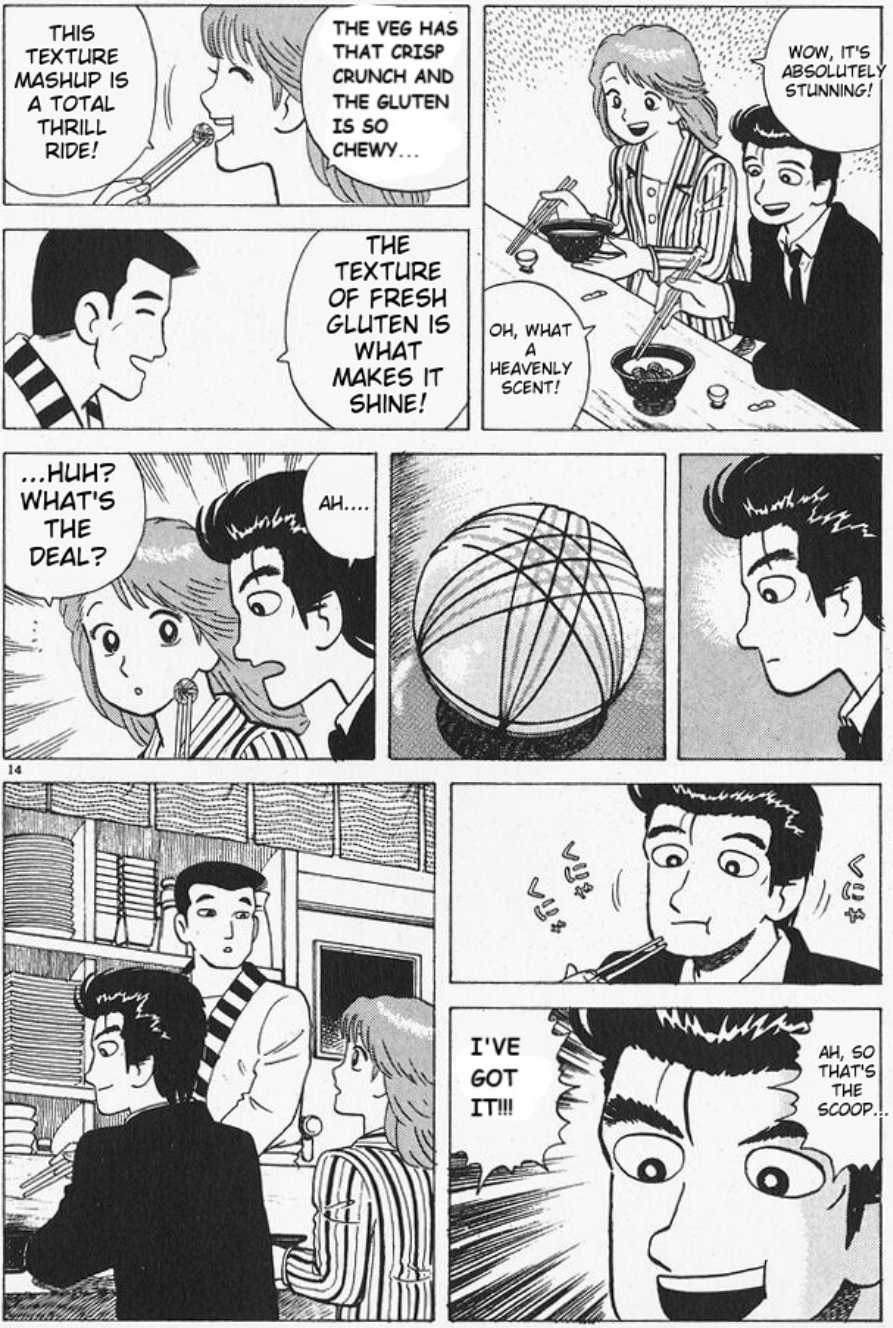






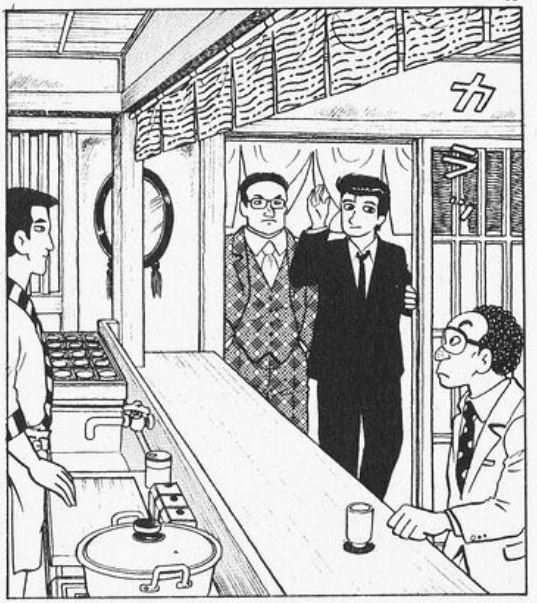


13


THIS TEXTURE MASHUP IS A TOTAL THRILL RIDE!
THE VEG HAS THAT CRISP CRUNCH AND THE GLUTEN IS SO CHEWY...
THE TEXTURE OF FRESH GLUTEN IS WHAT MAKES IT SHINE!
WOW, IT'S ABSOLUTELY STUNNING!
OH, WHAT A HEAVENLY SCENT!
...HUH? WHAT'S THE DEAL?
AH....
14
I'VE GOT IT!!!
AH, SO THAT'S THE SCOOP...

DELICIOUS!

15



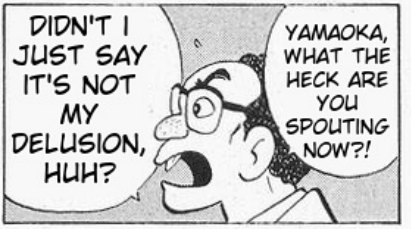
WHAT?!

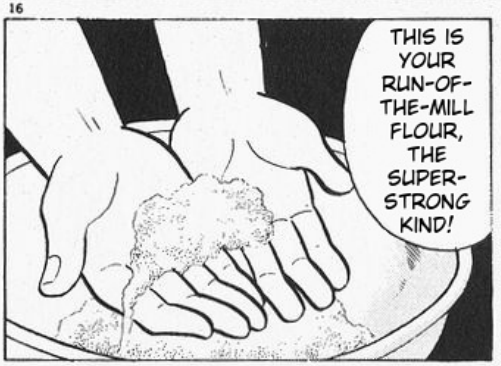
ALRIGHTY, LET'S DIVE RIGHT IN!
ME? I FIGURE KNEADING FLOUR WON'T WHIP UP ANY GUM STAND-IN, NO WAY!

YOU SAID IT COULD ACTUALLY WORK!

I'M STRAIGHT-UP SAYING KNEADING FLOUR TO MAKE IT IS TOTAL BOGUS DELUSION!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SAYING THE FLOUR-MADE IDEA IS JUST A WILD ILLUSION, Y'KNOW!
...THIS IS ALL KINDS OF BAFFLING.

HOLD UP A SEC!
THAT'S 'CAUSE THE DEPUTY BOSS'S DELUSION IS SMACK IN THE MIDDLE OF IT!


YAMAOKA, WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU SPOUTING NOW?!
DIDN'T I JUST SAY IT'S NOT MY DELUSION, HUH?


THIS IS YOUR RUN-OF-THE-MILL FLOUR, THE SUPER-STRONG KIND!

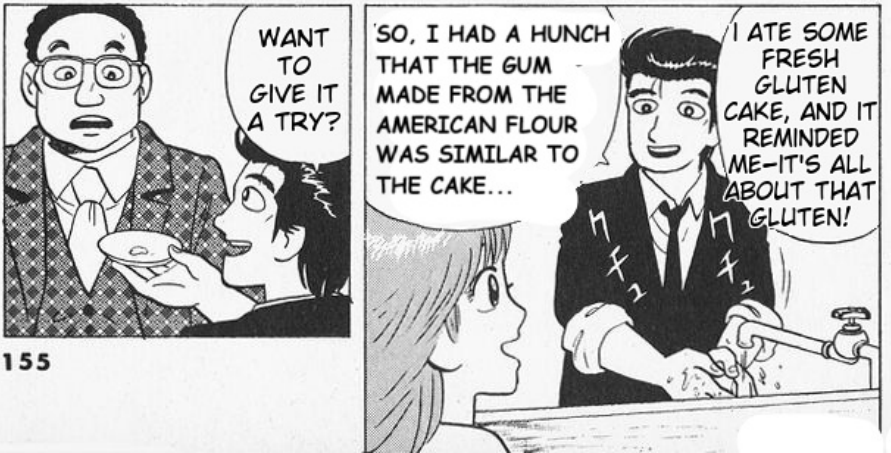
SO, LET'S ACTUALLY GIVE IT A WHIRL!

クチュクチュ
クチュクチュ
THEN ALL THAT POWDER'S GONNA DISSOLVE AND WASH AWAY!
WASHING IT BY RUBBING WHILE DOUSING IT?
WHOA, ARE YOU GONNA SPLASH ME WITH WATER?!
ボタボタ
17
WELL, JUST YOU WATCH THIS NOW!
IS THIS JUST SOME KIND OF JOKE TO YOU?!
I'M A BUSY MAN AND YOU DRAG ME HERE...
HEY HEY, THAT POWDER IN YOUR HAND'S VANISHING FAST!

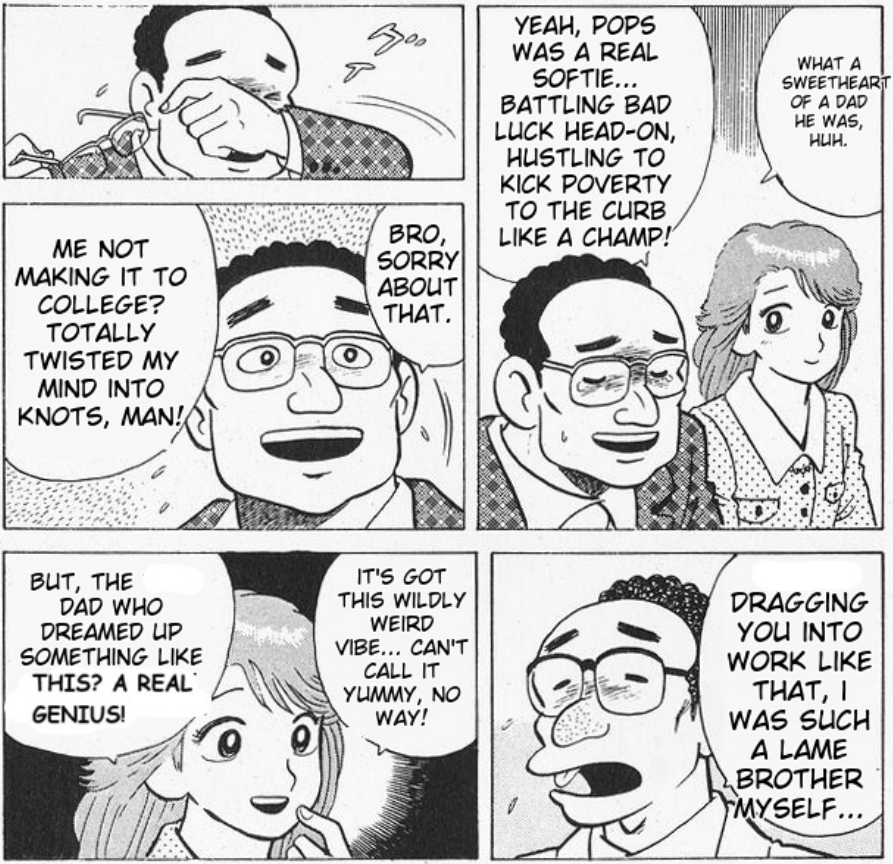
THE POWDER'S ALL WASHED AWAY, AND YOU'RE RUBBING YOUR HANDS? WHY ON EARTH?
THIS PROVES THE POWDER'S TOTALLY VANISHED FOR GOOD!
THE WATER'S LOST ITS MILKY GLOW... .....
ALRIGHT!
ALRIGHT? WHAT'S THAT EVEN MEAN...?
GO ON, GIVE IT A WHIRL!
UH, YEAH.....
WHAT?!
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!?

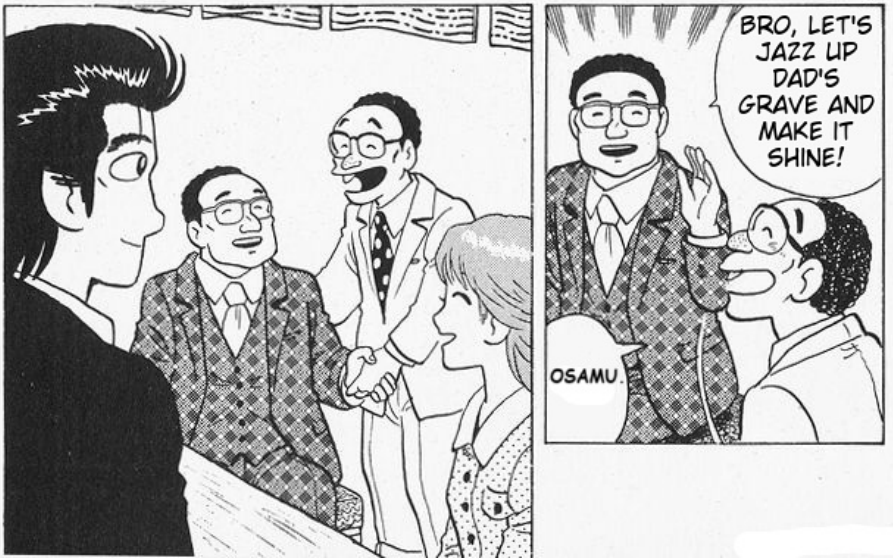
IT'S THE SUBSTITUTE GUM MY DAD MADE FOR ME!!
OH WOW!! THIS IS IT, THIS IS THE ONE!!
WHOA?!
!
くにゃ
くにゃ
くにゃ
WHEN YOU KNEAD IT WITH WATER, THE STARCH DISSOLVES AND FLOWS AWAY.
AMERICAN FLOUR, OR WHEAT FLOUR, IS MADE UP OF STARCH AND PROTEIN.
BUT THAT PROTEIN, WHICH IS GLUTEN, SOLIDIFIES AND DOESN'T DISSOLVE, STICKING RIGHT IN YOUR HANDS.
ACTUALLY, YOU KNEAD IT WHILE LETTING THE WATER FLOW LIKE THIS.
WHEN THE ASSISTANT MANAGER SAID THEY KNEADED SOME AMERICAN FLOUR, IT WAS JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING.
WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?!

19


WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY?
SO, I HAD A HUNCH THAT THE GUM MADE FROM THE AMERICAN FLOUR WAS SIMILAR TO THE CAKE...
I ATE SOME FRESH GLUTEN CAKE, AND IT REMINDED ME—IT'S ALL ABOUT THAT GLUTEN!
ﾅﾈｭﾈｭ
ﾅﾈｭﾈｭ

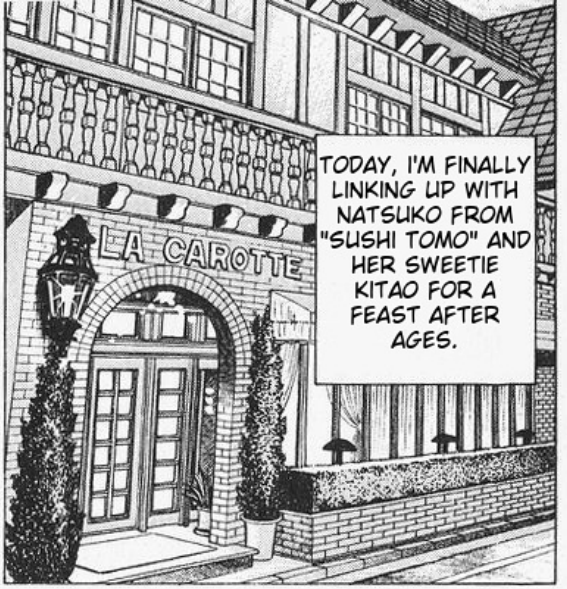
.....
くにゃ くにゃ
JUST IN THESE BARREN, NOTHING TIMES, USING JUNK LIKE THIS AS GUM? UNBELIEVABLE!
GOD, IT'S DISGUSTINGLY FOUL...
THE RAW, EARTHY BLAST OF FRESH WHEAT!
SO RAW AND GREEN-STINKING... TOTALLY FLAVORLESS JUNK!
20
DAD WRACKED HIS BRAIN, SQUEEZING SMARTS TO CHEER ME WITH THIS MESS...
IT'S ALL FLOODING BACK—THIS TASTE, THIS GRITTY FEEL, THIS PUNGENT WHIFF...
PARENTS COULDN'T EVEN SCORE REAL GUM FOR KIDS, STUCK HANDING OUT THIS CRAP...
THIS AS A GUM SWAP? HOW UTTERLY PATHETIC...
BET THAT WAS PURE HELL TO ENDURE...

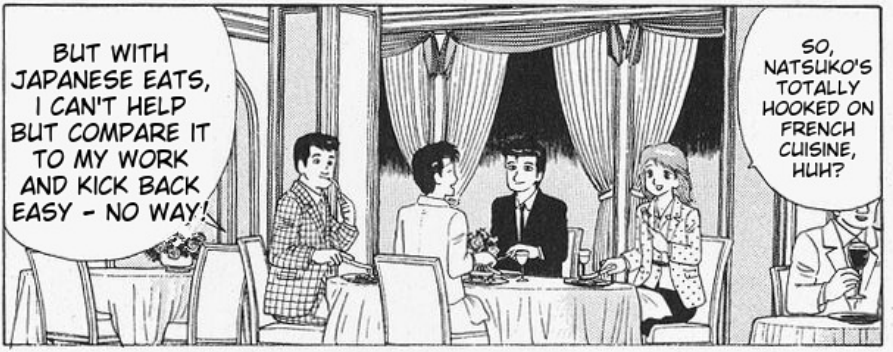

Boo
BRO, SORRY ABOUT THAT.
ME NOT MAKING IT TO COLLEGE? TOTALLY TWISTED MY MIND INTO KNOTS, MAN!
YEAH, POPS WAS A REAL SOFTIE... BATTLING BAD LUCK HEAD-ON, HUSTLING TO KICK POVERTY TO THE CURB LIKE A CHAMP!
WHAT A SWEETHEART OF A DAD HE WAS, HUH.
BUT, THE DAD WHO DREAMED UP SOMETHING LIKE THIS? A REAL GENIUS!
IT'S GOT THIS WILDLY WEIRD VIBE... CAN'T CALL IT YUMMY, NO WAY!
DRAGGING YOU INTO WORK LIKE THAT, I WAS SUCH A LAME BROTHER MYSELF...


BRO, LET'S JAZZ UP DAD'S GRAVE AND MAKE IT SHINE!
OSAMU.

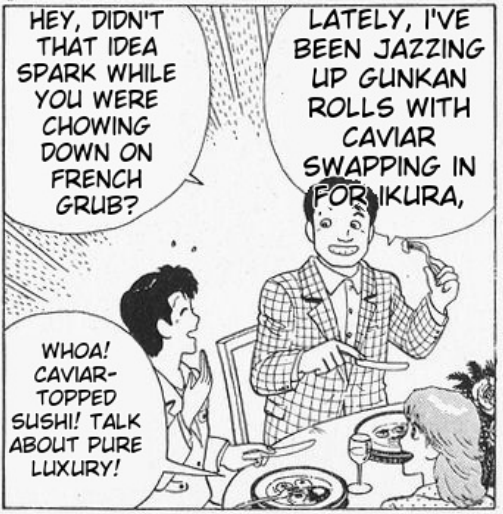
CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP!
東西新聞社
HEY! YOU MADE ME SWALLOW MY GUM!!!
ポン
GOOD MORNING, YAMAOKA-SAN!!
ゴクン
22
WAIT A MINUTE, NO, IT'S NOT, THAT WAS REAL GUM!!!
IT'S TOTALLY COOL TO MUNCH IT!
ISN'T GUM MADE FROM WHEAT GLUTEN?
ん?
AH, YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!

第4話
贅沢な献立


LA CAROTTE
TODAY, I'M FINALLY LINKING UP WITH NATSUKO FROM "SUSHI TOMO" AND HER SWEETIE KITAO FOR A FEAST AFTER AGES.


BUT WITH JAPANESE EATS, I CAN'T HELP BUT COMPARE IT TO MY WORK AND KICK BACK EASY - NO WAY!
SO, NATSUKO'S TOTALLY HOOKED ON FRENCH CUISINE, HUH?

2


HEY, DIDN'T THAT IDEA SPARK WHILE YOU WERE CHOWING DOWN ON FRENCH GRUB?
LATELY, I'VE BEEN JAZZING UP GUNKAN ROLLS WITH CAVIAR SWAPPING IN FOR IKURA,
WHOA! CAVIAR-TOPPED SUSHI! TALK ABOUT PURE LUXURY!

THAT'S WHERE FRENCH CUISINE ROCKS - IT LETS ME CHILL OUT FAR FROM MY DAILY GRIND...

THAT DOESN'T CLICK WITH ME AT ALL.

ガヒー
EVEN WHILE SAVORING FRENCH CUISINE, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK ABOUT SUSHI...
AH, THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL BEING STINGY—HOW EMBARRASSING...
YES, MASTER ASHIDA, WE'VE BEEN EAGERLY AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL.
GOT A SEAT, RIGHT?
DO YOU COME TO THIS PLACE OFTEN?
NOT AT ALL!
FOR A LOWLY SALARYMAN LIKE ME, THAT DREAM IS OUT OF REACH! TODAY'S MY FIRST TIME!
IS THAT YOU, ASHIDA? LONG TIME NO SEE!
3
IS THAT YOU, KITAO?

I'M NOT TOUCHING ANY RESTAURANT GARBAGE!
IT'S MY OLD MAN' RUNNING THE JOINT!
WHAT THE HECK? YOU'RE BAILING ON INHERITING THE SHOP?!
EVENING!
ASHIDA YASUTAKA WE USED TO SLING GRUB IN AKASAKA.
THIS GUY'S MY HIGH SCHOOL PAL,
BUZZ OFF ALREADY!
ASHIDA, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL HERE?!
GOING IT ALONE IS TOTAL NONSENSE!
HMPH, RESTAURANTS ARE JUST SPOTS TO CHOW DOWN AS A PAYING CUSTOMER, DAMMIT!
4
BET YOU'RE NOT ORDERING ANY FANCY-SCHMANCY WINE ANYWAY!
FORGET THAT JAZZ, WE'RE FINALLY CROSSING PATHS, SO I'LL HOOK YOU UP WITH SOME VINO LATER!
WELL...
NOBUKO'S SWINGING BY HERE LATER.
HOW'S NOBUKO HOLDING UP?

BUT NOT TAKING OVER THE SHOP? WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THAT?
YEAH... HE'S THE FOURTH GENERATION OWNER, AND IT'S A BOOMING JOINT...
足田
NAH, SORRY, HE WASN'T THAT KIND OF GUY BEFORE...
WELL, THIS IS THE GREETING, HUH...?
IS HE IN THE RESTAURANT BIZ?
WHO CARES ABOUT HIM ANYWAY?
FROM MASTER ASHIDA TO EVERYONE, A FABULOUS WINE GIFT!
PARDON MY INTRUSION.
SORRY, I WENT AND WRECKED THE VIBE WITH THIS LAME STUFF...
5
ALRIGHT, LET'S CHOW DOWN!
NAH, IT'S ALL GOOD.

WAIT, THAT RINGS A BELL... IS IT SOME MEGA-AWESOME WINE?
HOLY CRAP! ROMANÉE-CONTI!!
THIS IS THE LEGENDARY 1978 ROMANÉE-CONTI, FOLKS!
LERÖY
ROMANÉE-CONTI
AND 1978 WAS THE ABSOLUTE BEST VINTAGE IN AGES.
WHOA, IT'S NOT JUST AMAZING— IT'S THE STRAIGHT-UP KING OF WINES, BABY!
JUST FOR ONE BOTTLE?!
200,000 YEN?!
IN A JAPANESE RESTAURANT, THAT BOTTLE'D COST YOU 200,000 YEN EASY...
THAT'S GOTTA BE INSANELY PRICEY, RIGHT?
6
YOU'D NEVER GET TO SIP THIS —SAVOR EVERY DROP, PAL!
JUST THINK, IF I HADN'T BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL,
SO, WHADDYA THINK? YOU LOVING THIS WINE OR WHAT?

HEY, COME ON, SAVE THE LECTURE!
WORD ON THE STREET ISN'T TOO FLATTERING LATELY.
ASHIDA... EVEN THOUGH I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE FEAST, I CAN'T HELP BUT SAY THIS,
IT SEEMS YOU'RE QUITE THE BIG SPENDER THESE DAYS, HUH?
HMPH, THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
THIS ISN'T A LECTURE; I'M GENUINELY WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
IF THERE'S ONE ADVANTAGE TO BEING THE SON OF A RESTAURANTER, IT'S THIS!
I'M GOING TO LIVE IT UP UNTIL I'VE DRAINED EVERY LAST YEN FROM MY STASH AT HOME!
I'VE GOT MORE THAN ENOUGH CASH.
WELL THEN, SEE YOU AROUND.
HMPH... AS IF YOU'D UNDERSTAND ANYTHING I SAY!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN... WHAT'S GOING ON?!

NOBUKO-SAN!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
KITAO-SAN!
YES...
DID YOU BRING IT?
8
YOUR FAMILY'S RESTAURANT IS THRIVING, BUT THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD EARN THIS KIND OF MONEY TO SPEND SO RECKLESSLY?!
WHAT IN THE WORLD HAPPENED, ASHIDA?
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
THIS IS JUST POCKET CHANGE!
ISN'T IT QUITE A SUM?

THE BIG BOSS SAYS HE'S TAPPED OUT ON CASH..."
WHAT THE?!"
UM...
AH!
SHUT YOUR TRAP! TEAMING UP WITH MY OLD MAN, HUH?!"
YOU PICKING A FIGHT WITH ME ON PURPOSE?!"
SCREW THIS! -I'M OUTTA HERE!"
ASHIDA! WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU DONE?!
9
え！

ASHIDA GOT TOTALLY SMITTEN WITH HER, AND BOOM– THEY WERE ENGAGED!
IT ALL STARTED WHEN "MIYAKAZU" SUPPLIED FISH, AND NOBUKO JOINED ASHIDA'S SHOP TO LEARN THE ROPES, BUT...

NOBUKO'S THE DAUGHTER OF "MIYAKAZU," THAT BUZZING FRESH FISH WHOLESALER IN TSUKIJI...

WELL... WITH NOBUKO AROUND LIKE THAT, HOW COULD ASHIDA PULL SUCH A STUNT?!

ASHIDA'S OLD MAN HAS TOTALLY FALLEN FOR NOBUKO AND NOW SPOILS HER MORE THAN HIS OWN FLESH AND BLOOD!

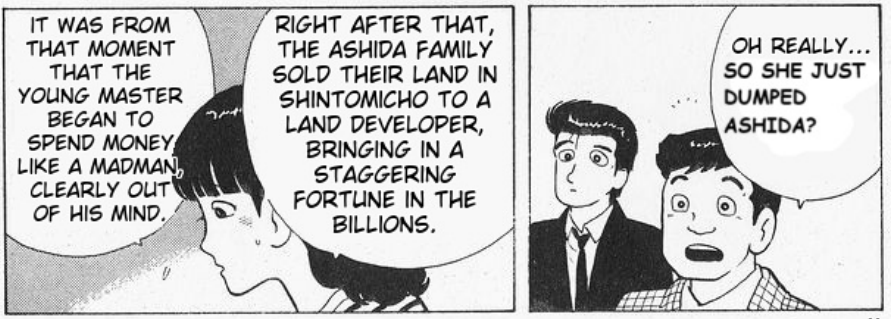
10

WHEN I FOUND OUT, MY HEART WAS PRACTICALLY EXPLODING WITH SHOCK!
YOU CAN'T SLAP CHAINS ON A HUMAN HEART, NO MATTER WHAT...

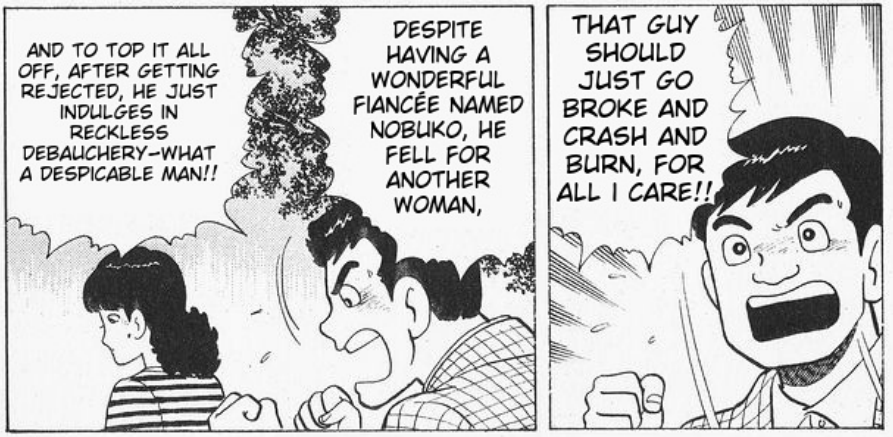
HE WENT AND FELL HEAD OVER HEELS FOR SOME MYSTERY WOMAN!
THE YOUNG BOSS LAST YEAR,

HUH? NO WAY, THAT'S INSANE...?! DID HE REALLY BETRAY NOBUKO?!

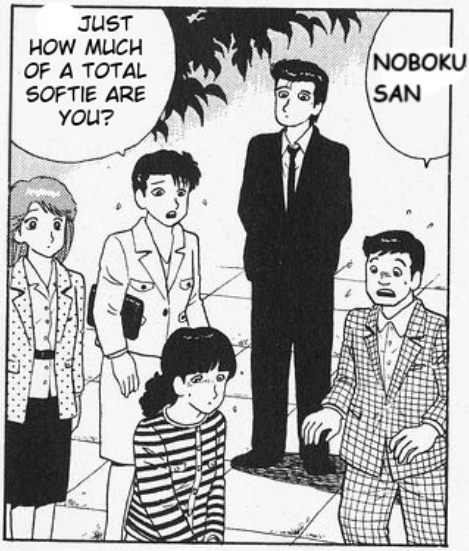
THEN, OUT OF THE BLUE THIS YEAR, THAT WOMAN MARRIED ANOTHER MAN.
I WAS AT A LOSS FOR WORDS ON HOW TO APPROACH THE ESTEEMED MASTER WHO HAS SHOWN ME SUCH KINDNESS, AND WHILE I PONDERED, TIME SLIPPED AWAY...
I MADE UP MY MIND TO STEP BACK, BUT,


IT WAS FROM THAT MOMENT THAT THE YOUNG MASTER BEGAN TO SPEND MONEY, LIKE A MADMAN, CLEARLY OUT OF HIS MIND.
RIGHT AFTER THAT, THE ASHIDA FAMILY SOLD THEIR LAND IN SHINTOMICHO TO A LAND DEVELOPER, BRINGING IN A STAGGERING FORTUNE IN THE BILLIONS.
OH REALLY... SO SHE JUST DUMPED ASHIDA?

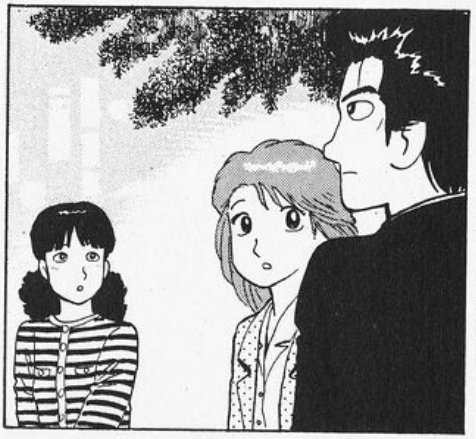
11


AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, AFTER GETTING REJECTED, HE JUST INDULGES IN RECKLESS DEBAUCHERY—WHAT A DESPICABLE MAN!!
DESPITE HAVING A WONDERFUL FIANCÉE NAMED NOBUKO, HE FELL FOR ANOTHER WOMAN,
THAT GUY SHOULD JUST GO BROKE AND CRASH AND BURN, FOR ALL I CARE!!

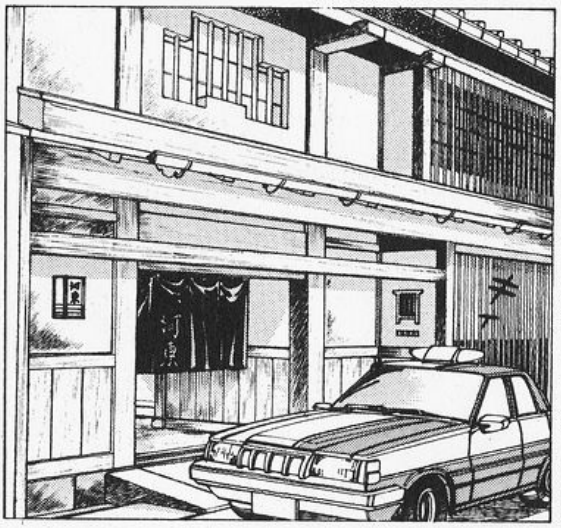
"THE YOUNG MASTER'S TOTALLY SICK RIGHT NOW, THAT'S NOT THE REAL HIM AT ALL! DON'T YOU DARE DITCH HIM...
HE'S JUST GOING THROUGH SOM ISSUES RIGHT NOW...
PLEASE DON'T SPOUT THAT NONSENSE... PLEASE, YOU'VE GOTTA SWOOP IN AND SAVE THE YOUNG MASTER!
PLEASE, MR. KITAO...

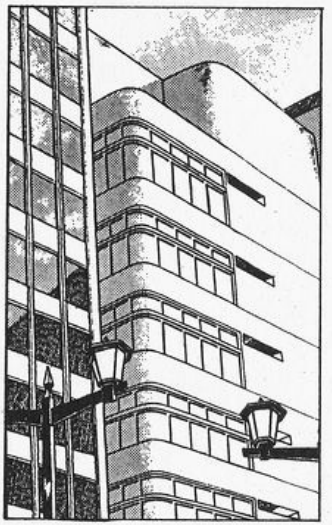

JUST HOW MUCH OF A TOTAL SOFTIE ARE YOU?
NOBOKU-SAN

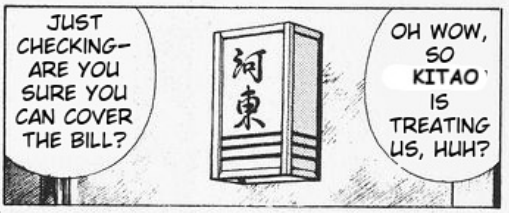
HUH?
I DON'T BUY THAT MR. ASHIDA FLIPPED OUT JUST 'CAUSE HE GOT DUMPED BY THAT GIRL— THERE'S MORE TO IT!



"WHY'S HE SO OBSESSED WITH ALL THAT LAVISH BLING...? AND GET THIS, CLAIMING HIS WILD SPENDING IS REVENGE ON BEING BORN A RESTAURANT HEIR'S KID...
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS WHOLE THING DOESN'T SIT RIGHT...
THIS HERE'S GOT SOME DEEPER, JUICIER TWIST TO IT, Y'KNOW...





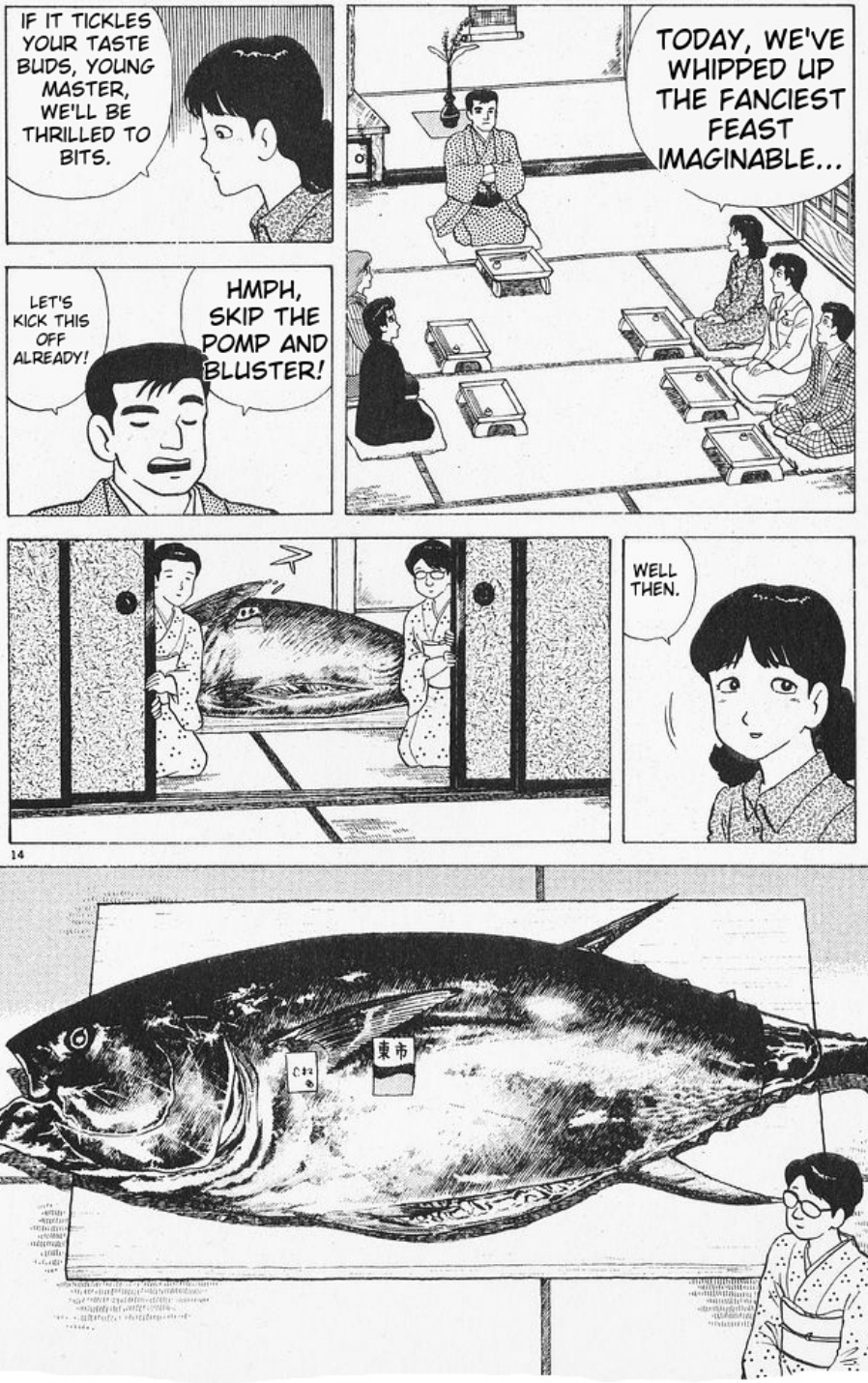

JUST CHECKING— ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN COVER THE BILL?
河東
OH WOW, SO KITAO IS TREATING US, HUH?

I JUST WANTED TO RETURN THE FAVOR FOR THAT WINE WE HAD THE OTHER DAY, YOU KNOW!

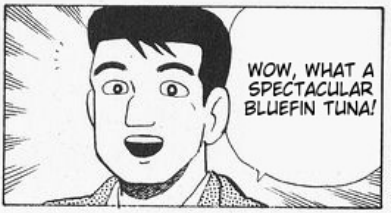
13

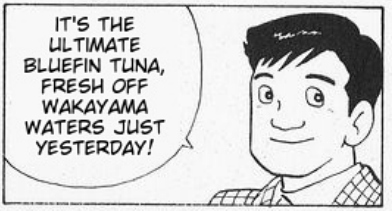
河東
STOP ACTING LIKE AN ASSHOLE!

WITH BROKE LOSERS LIKE YOU, EVEN IF YOU OFFER A FEAST, IT'S BOUND TO BE NOTHING SPECIAL!
DON'T OVERDO IT, ALRIGHT?


IF IT TICKLES YOUR TASTE BUDS, YOUNG MASTER, WE'LL BE THRILLED TO BITS.
TODAY, WE'VE WHIPPED UP THE FANCIEST FEAST IMAGINABLE...
LET'S KICK THIS OFF ALREADY!
HMPH, SKIP THE POMP AND BLUSTER!
WELL THEN.
東市

WHAT?! YOU SCORED IT AT NOBUKO'S FAMILY'S AUCTION?
THIS MORNING AT THE TSUKIJI FISH MARKET AUCTION, MIYAI OUTBID KEIHIN AND KOGURO TO SNAG IT BIG TIME!


WOW, WHAT A SPECTACULAR BLUEFIN TUNA!


IT'S THE ULTIMATE BLUEFIN TUNA, FRESH OFF WAKAYAMA WATERS JUST YESTERDAY!

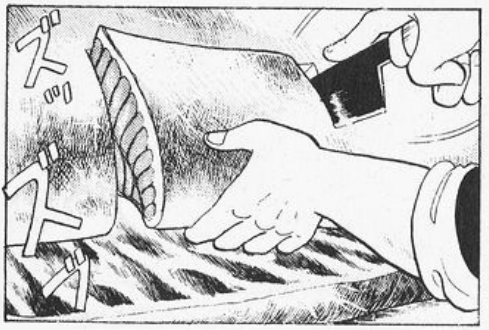
ALL IN, THAT'S A WHOPPING 6 MILLION YEN!
THIS BEAST TIPS THE SCALES AT 240 KILOS, SO GET THIS!

MAN, IT BALLOONED INTO A SKY-HIGH PRICE!
'CAUSE THE TOP-TIER WHOLESALERS LIKE KEIHIN AND KOGURO THREW DOWN HARD FOR THEIR REP!

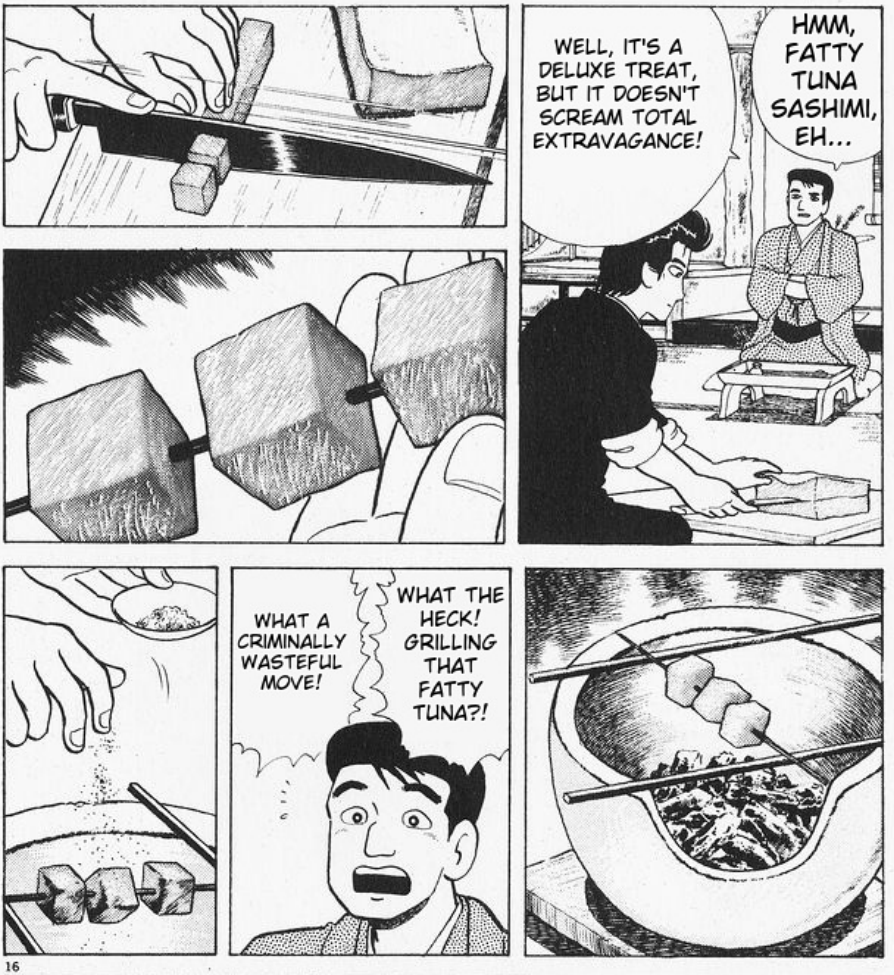
WHOA... THAT'S ONE INSANE PRICE TAG...

WHAT?! THAT'S THE ALL-TIME RECORD HIGH, NO DOUBT!
25,000 YEN PER KILO, BABY!

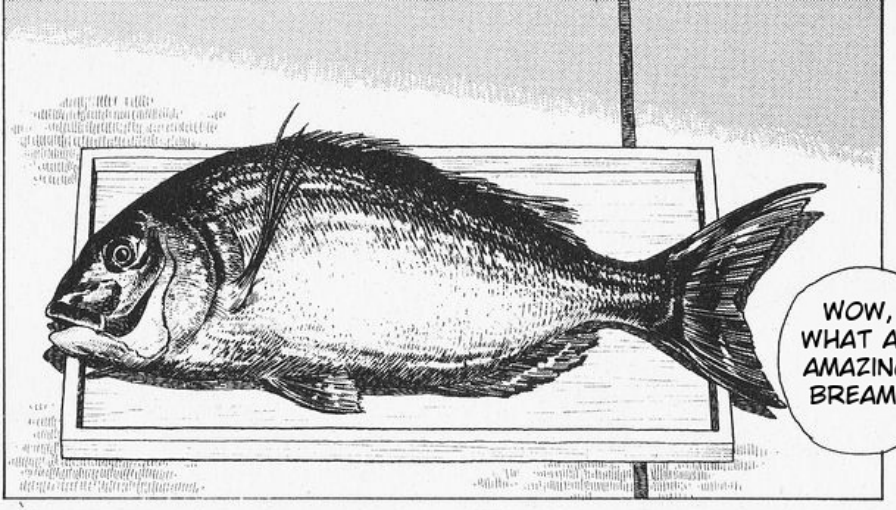
15

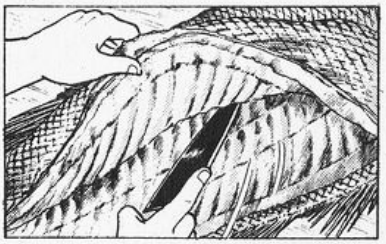

ズバッ
ズバッ

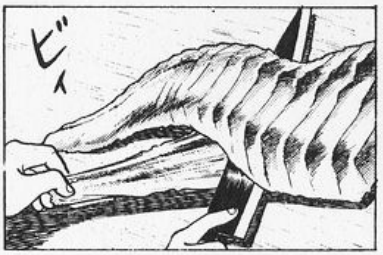
ALRIGHT, LET'S FIRE THIS UP!


HMM, FATTY TUNA SASHIMI, EH...
WELL, IT'S A DELUXE TREAT, BUT IT DOESN'T SCREAM TOTAL EXTRAVAGANCE!
WHAT THE HECK! GRILLING THAT FATTY TUNA?!
WHAT A CRIMINALLY WASTEFUL MOVE!
16
THE ULTIMATE FATTY TUNA, SKEWERED AND HIT WITH JUST SALT...

AH... THIS IS PURE, OVER-THE-TOP LUXURY...
HMM... THE SURFACE HAS THAT KILLER CHAR, WAFTING AN IRRESISTIBLE AROMA.
BUT INSIDE, IT'S STILL RAW -RAW YET PERFECTLY WARMED THROUGH.
THAT OTORO FAT'S GONE ALL BUTTERY SOFT, WITH A SILKY-SMOOTH GLIDE AND SWEETNESS EXPLODING ON YOUR TONGUE...
WHAT THE-?! YOU'RE TOSSING IT OUT?!
WE'RE DITCHING IT.
?
SO, WE'RE DITCHING IT.
YES, ONCE YOU'VE FEASTED ON THE PRIME CUTS, CHOWING DOWN ON THE DREGS IS TOTALLY POINTLESS!
HEY, THAT TUNA- WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE LEFTOVERS?!
17
ONE SKEWER, SIX MIL YEN... WHOA...
OH MY!


WOW, WHAT AN AMAZING BREAM!

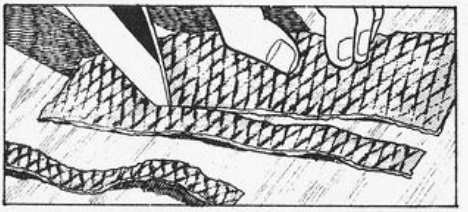


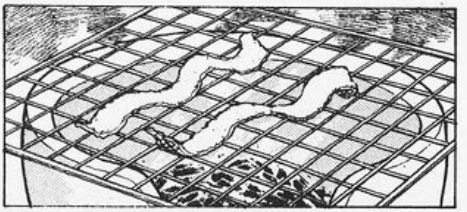

ビィ

THEY SAY IF YOU CAN CATCH ONE OR TWO A DAY, IT'S THE BEST SEA BREAM THERE IS!
THIS IS THE RED SEA BREAM CAUGHT IN IWAYA, AWAJI ISLAND.

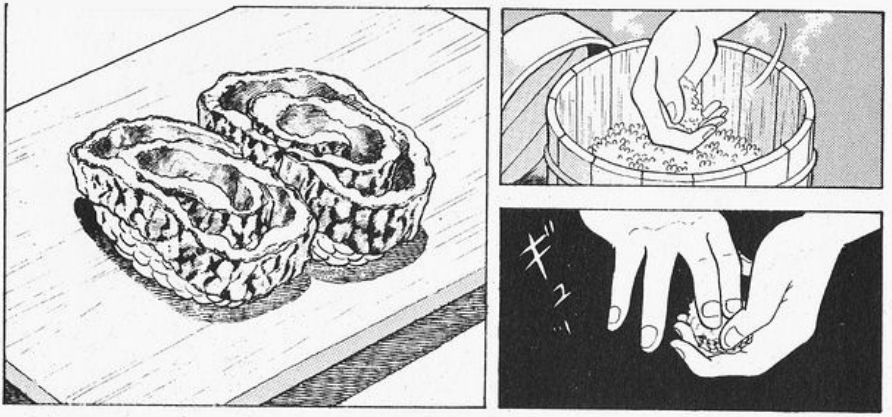
18

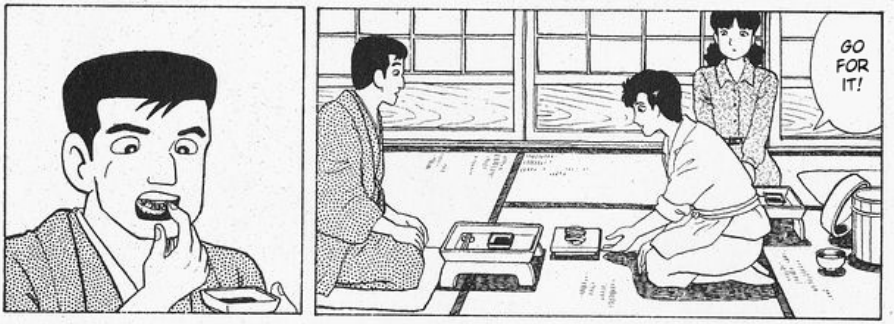
YES.
PLEASE, NATSUKO-SAN!



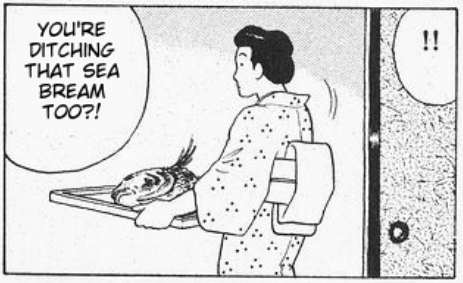


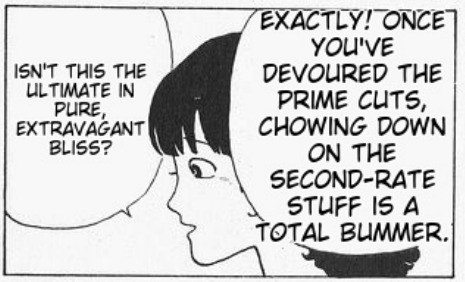
DELICIOUS!





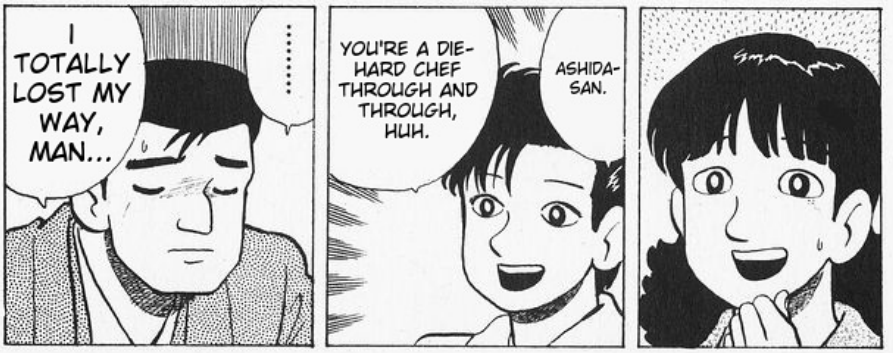
19

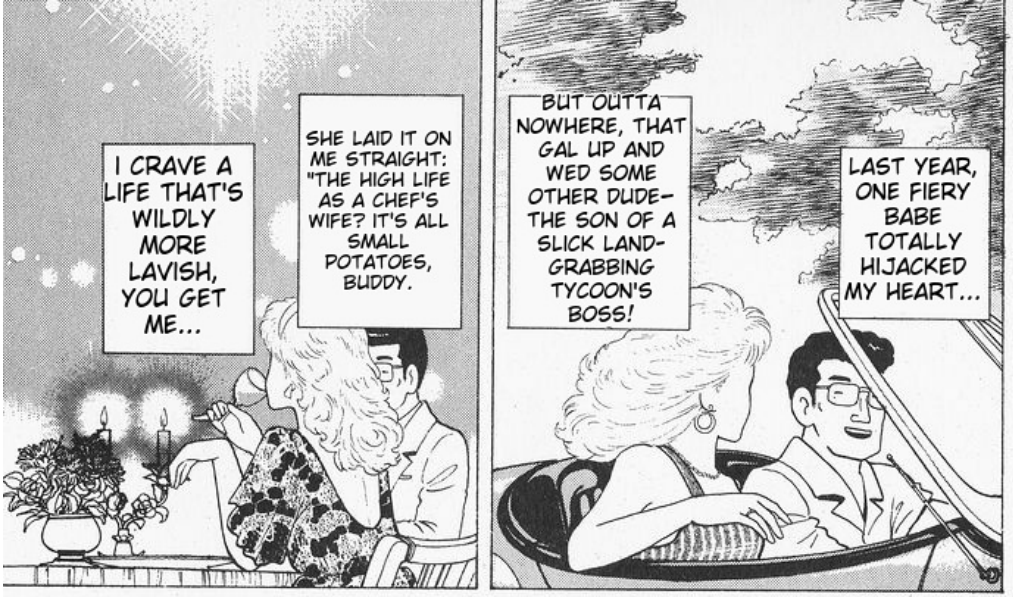


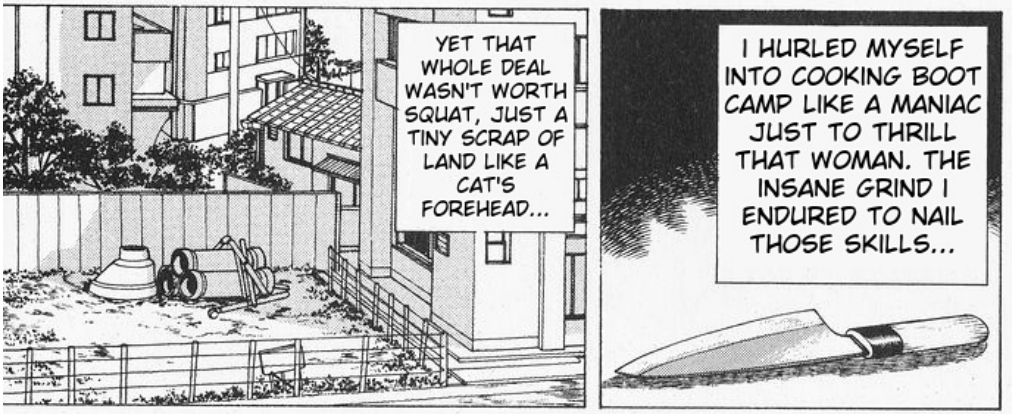


NOBUKO! I'M PLEADING, DON'T TOSS THAT TUNA AND SEA BREAM!!
AW, SHOOT! I'M DONE FOR -IT'S MY LOSS...
GRR... GRR... GRR...
ASHIDA...
MAN, THIS IS THE ULTIMATE SPLURGE, AND SPLURGING IS AN ABSOLUTE THRILL!
YOUNG BOSS!
AS IF I'D LET THAT GO TO WASTE!
WITH THAT TUNA AND SEA BREAM, I COULD WHIP UP SOME EPIC FEASTS YET...
BUT HECK, I'M A CHEF TO THE CORE! THERE'S NO WAY I'D DITCH THAT TUNA AND SEA BREAM!!

20


I TOTALLY LOST MY WAY, MAN...
.....
YOU'RE A DIE-HARD CHEF THROUGH AND THROUGH, HUH.
ASHIDA-SAN.


I CRAVE A LIFE THAT'S WILDLY MORE LAVISH, YOU GET ME...
SHE LAID IT ON ME STRAIGHT: "THE HIGH LIFE AS A CHEF'S WIFE? IT'S ALL SMALL POTATOES, BUDDY.
BUT OUTTA NOWHERE, THAT GAL UP AND WED SOME OTHER DUDE– THE SON OF A SLICK LAND-GRABBING TYCOON'S BOSS!
LAST YEAR, ONE FIERY BABE TOTALLY HIJACKED MY HEART...


YET THAT WHOLE DEAL WASN'T WORTH SQUAT, JUST A TINY SCRAP OF LAND LIKE A CAT'S FOREHEAD...
I HURLED MYSELF INTO COOKING BOOT CAMP LIKE A MANIAC JUST TO THRILL THAT WOMAN. THE INSANE GRIND I ENDURED TO NAIL THOSE SKILLS...

21

WITH THE DOUGH FROM MY OLD MAN'S LAND FLIP, I DREAMED OF SPLURGING TILL I DROPPED DEAD...
MAN, PONDERING THAT, I FEEL LIKE A TOTAL CHUMP AS A CHEF, IT'S JUST PLAIN PATHETIC...

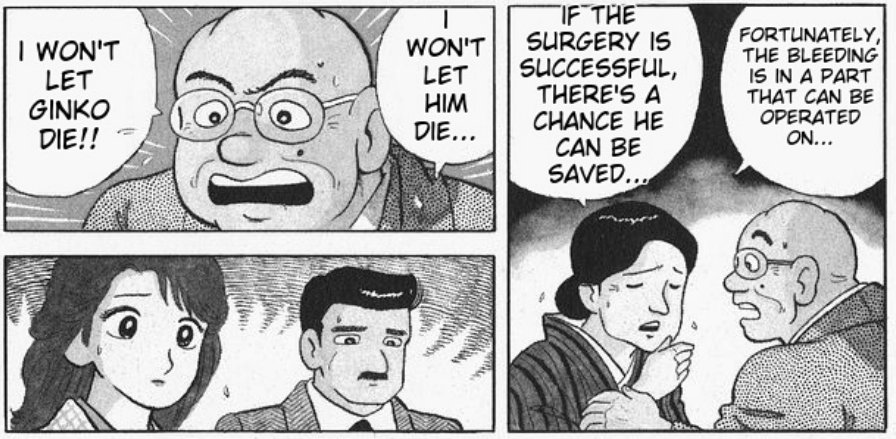
NOBUKO... HOW COULD YOU SPLASH OUT MILLIONS LIKE THAT?!
ALL FOR ONE BURNING DESIRE: TO LET YOU SAVOR THIS DISH...
MR. ASHIDA... TO SNAG THIS TUNA AND SEA BREAM, NOBUKO PAWNED HER WHOLE FORTUNE!
IF I CAN'T TIE THE KNOT WITH THE YOUNG MASTER ANYWAY, WHAT'S THE POINT OF HANGING ON...
I SNAGGED THE CASH DAD STASHED FOR MY WEDDING AND BLEW IT ALL WILD!
ASHIDA!
I'LL WHIP UP A DISH THAT'LL STEAL YOUR HEART AWAY, YOU BET!
NOBUKO, I'M REINVENTING MYSELF AS A CHEF FROM THE GROUND UP!
22

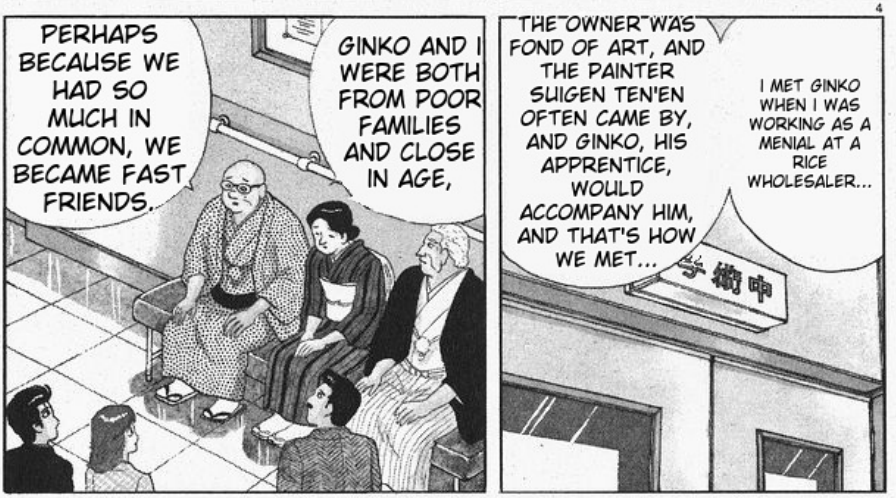
ブスーン
WHAT'S WRONG, YAMAOKA-SAN? YOU SEEM A BIT GRUMPY.
I'M GLAD IT ALL WORKED OUT IN THE END.
WHY SHOULD A GUY LIKE ME, WHO HAS NOTHING, BE THE ONE TO HELP A MAN LIKE HIM...
A YOUNG HEIR AT A HIGH-END RESTAURANT, LAND, WEALTH, AND AN INCREDIBLE FIANCÉE...
THINKING ABOUT IT, IT'S DOWNRIGHT RIDICULOUS.
ドカ
ドカ
ABSOLUTELY! FRIENDS ARE THE GREATEST TREASURE OF ALL.
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL? SOMEONE LIKE YAMAOKA-SAN HAS SUCH AMAZING FRIENDS LIKE US!
I'D TAKE A SINGLE SQUARE METER OF LAND IN GINZA OVER FRIENDS ANY DAY!

第5話
海のマツタケご飯

PROFESSOR KIYOTANI GINKO HAS COLLAPSED!
THIS IS TERRIBLE!
EVERYONE IN THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT, GO HELP IMMEDIATELY.
IT'S A CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
AH! YAMAOKA, THERE YOU ARE!
YAMAOKA-KUN... YAMAOKA!
UNDERSTOOD!.. KURITA-KUN!
2
HE WAS JUST AT HIS DESK...
...HUH?

OUR CULTURE SECTION IS ESPECIALLY INDEBTED TO HIM.
HE'S HELPED WITH OUR ART EXHIBITIONS AND DRAWN FOR OUR NEW YEAR'S SPECIAL ISSUE.
KIYOTANI GINKO-SENSEI IS A LEADING FIGURE IN JAPANESE PAINTING...
YOU... YOU...
HOW IS GINKO'S CONDITION?!
MADAM!
バタバタ
IN SURGERY
3
OH, THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER PEOPLE ARE HERE!
I SEE, KYOGOKU-SAN WAS CLOSE TO KIYOTANI-SENSEI, WASN'T HE...
YOU'VE COME!
KYOGOKU-SAN,


I WON'T LET GINKO DIE!!
I WON'T LET HIM DIE...
IF THE SURGERY IS SUCCESSFUL, THERE'S A CHANCE HE CAN BE SAVED...
FORTUNATELY, THE BLEEDING IS IN A PART THAT CAN BE OPERATED ON...


PERHAPS BECAUSE WE HAD SO MUCH IN COMMON, WE BECAME FAST FRIENDS.
GINKO AND I WERE BOTH FROM POOR FAMILIES AND CLOSE IN AGE,
THE OWNER WAS FOND OF ART, AND THE PAINTER SUIGEN TEN'EN OFTEN CAME BY, AND GINKO, HIS APPRENTICE, WOULD ACCOMPANY HIM, AND THAT'S HOW WE MET...
I MET GINKO WHEN I WAS WORKING AS A MENIAL AT A RICE WHOLESALER...

GINKO SAID, 'HMPH, I'M GOING TO BE THE WORLD'S GREATEST PAINTER, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH ME!'
I SAID, 'I'M GOING TO BE THE GREATEST MERCHANT IN JAPAN, SO YOU BECOME THE GREATEST PAINTER!'
S-SO, IN THIS WAY, WE ENCOURAGED EACH OTHER...

IF HE GOES NOW, WHAT WAS THE POINT OF ALL THOSE YEARS OF STRUGGLE?
GINKO AND I WERE BOTH FINALLY AT A STAGE WHERE WE COULD ENJOY THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOR.
GINKO BECAME THE BEST PAINTER IN JAPAN. I ALSO BECAME A FULL-FLEDGED MERCHANT, IN MY OWN WAY.
IN SURGERY
.....
5
MR. KIYOTANI HAS BEGUN HIS RECOVERY, AND SO WE RETURNED BACK TO WORK...
FORTUNATELY, THE SURGERY WAS SUCCESSFUL.

HE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME OR HIS WIFE. IT'S LIKE WE'RE TOTAL STRANGERS...
WELL, HE'S MANAGED TO HANG ON TO HIS LIFE, BUT HIS MIND IS FOGGY.

HOW IS MR. KIYOTANI'S RECOVERY GOING?

OH MY...!

I JUST WISH HE COULD AT LEAST REMEMBER OUR FRIENDSHIP...
IT'S ALRIGHT IF HE CAN'T RETURN AS A PAINTER...

6

SEA MATSUTAKE RICE, YOU SAY?!
GINKO SAID, 'I WANT YOU TO FEED ME SEA MATSUTAKE RICE.'

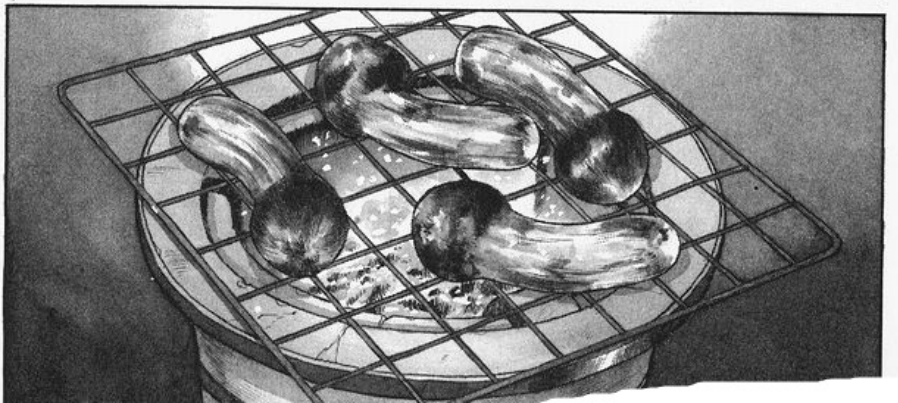
THE DAY GINKO COLLAPSED, I WAS IN TOKYO BECAUSE HE CALLED FOR ME.
岡星

THE TOPIC OF 'SEA MATSUTAKE RICE' CAME UP BECAUSE OF GINKO'S COMPETITIVE SPIRIT...
GINKO SAID HE'D BE THE BEST PAINTER NOT JUST IN JAPAN, BUT IN THE WORLD, SO HE WAS A VERY AMBITIOUS MAN, AND HE ABSOLUTELY HATED TO LOSE TO ANYONE.

YAMAOKA-SAN, WHAT WAS HE TALKING ABOUT WITH 'SEA MATSUTAKE RICE'?

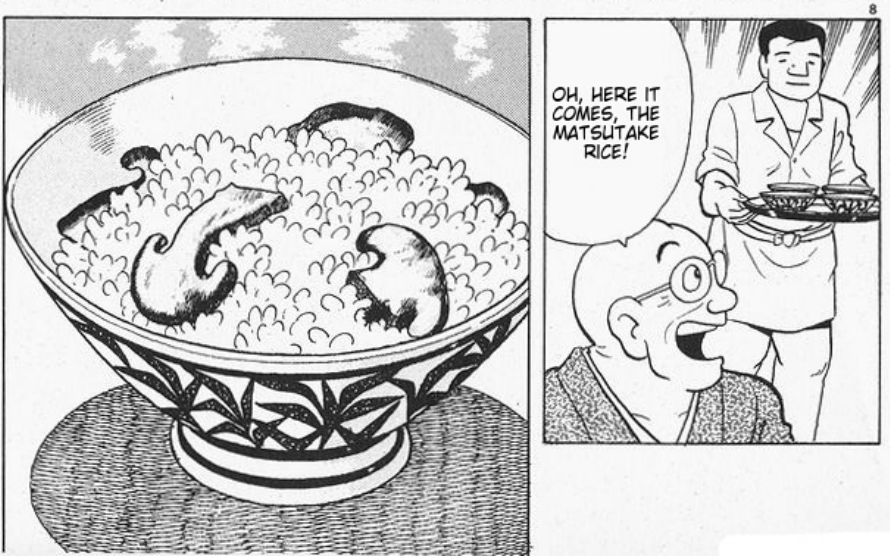
NOW, WHAT COULD HE BE TALKING ABOUT...?
HUH?! I DON'T KNOW...

I THOUGHT I'D TREAT HIM TO SOME MATSUTAKE MUSHROOMS...
THAT WAS LAST FALL. I TOOK GINKO TO MY MOUNTAIN IN TANBA.



THIS WHOLE MOUNTAIN BELONGS TO ME, YOU SEE!
COME, COME, EAT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE!

MMM...
RIGHT, DEAR!
MMM, DELICIOUS... SUCH A WONDERFUL AROMA, IT LIFTS MY SPIRITS! AND THAT FRESH, CRISP TEXTURE!


OH, HERE IT COMES, THE MATSUTAKE RICE!

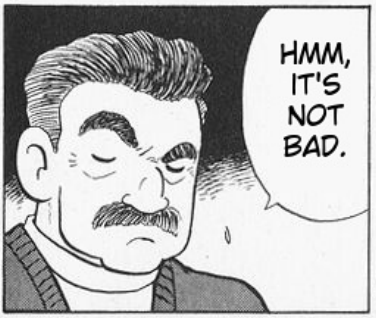
IT GAINS A DELIGHTFUL BOUNCE AND TENDERNESS!
OH MY! NOT ONLY IS THE FRAGRANCE DIVINE, BUT WHEN YOU COOK IT WITH RICE, THE MATSUTAKE'S FLAVOR BECOMES EVEN MORE EXTRAORDINARY!

I HATE TO SAY IT MYSELF, BUT THIS IS THE FINEST MATSUTAKE IN THE WORLD!
ONLY THROUGH CAREFUL NURTURING IN THE PINE FORESTS, WITH TRUE DEDICATION, CAN SUCH MAGNIFICENT MATSUTAKE GROW.

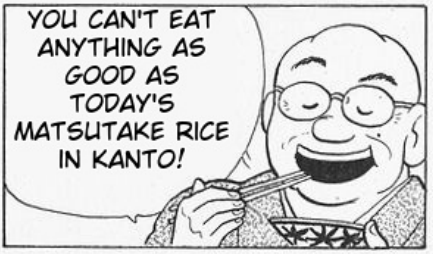
HONESTLY, THERE'S NO GREATER LUXURY THAN THIS!
FRESHLY HARVESTED MATSUTAKE IS IN A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN— ITS TASTE AND AROMA ARE SIMPLY OUT OF THIS WORLD!

WITHOUT A DOUBT, WHEN IT COMES TO MATSUTAKE, NOTHING BEATS THE ONES FROM TANBA!
WAHHAHAHAHA!

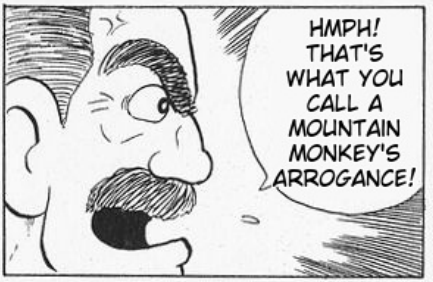
9

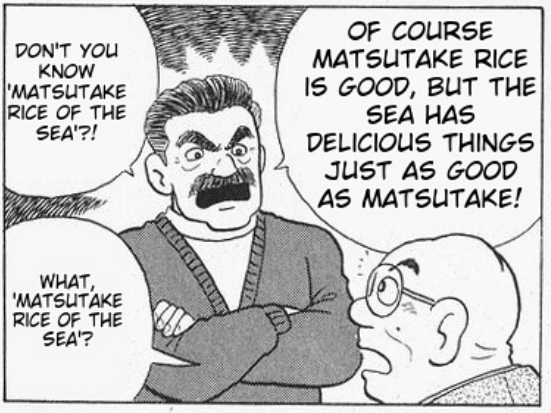

HMM, IT'S NOT BAD.

.....
WELL, HOW ABOUT IT, GIN-KO? ISN'T IT DELICIOUS?


YOU CAN'T EAT ANYTHING AS GOOD AS TODAY'S MATSUTAKE RICE IN KANTO!

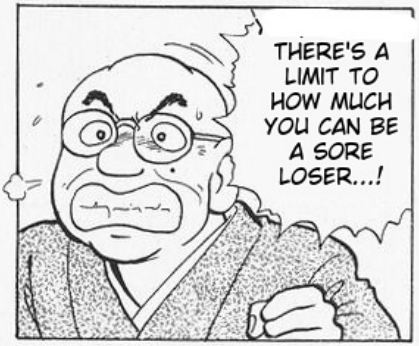
YOU'VE LIVED IN KANTO FOR A LONG TIME, AND BY THE SEA AT THAT, SO YOU'VE NEVER EATEN SUCH DELICIOUS MATSUTAKE, RIGHT?
HEY, HEY, IF IT WAS GOOD, JUST SAY IT'S GOOD HONESTLY! YOU'RE A SORE LOSER.


HMPH! THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL A MOUNTAIN MONKEY'S ARROGANCE!


DON'T YOU KNOW 'MATSUTAKE RICE OF THE SEA'?!
OF COURSE MATSUTAKE RICE IS GOOD, BUT THE SEA HAS DELICIOUS THINGS JUST AS GOOD AS MATSUTAKE!
WHAT, 'MATSUTAKE RICE OF THE SEA'?

YOU...
W-WHAT?!

10


THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH YOU CAN BE A SORE LOSER...!

SEE, YOU MOUNTAIN MONKEY! YOU DON'T KNOW.
YOU, STOP IT!

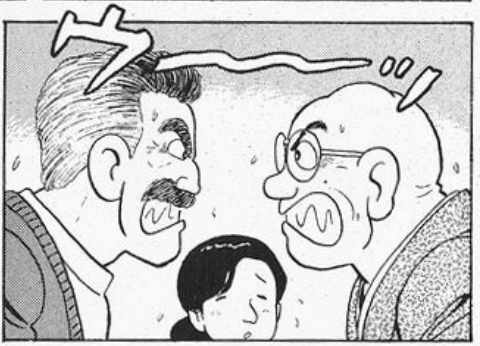
BUT NOT NOW. I'LL CALL YOU WHEN EARLY SUMMER COMES. LOOK FORWARD TO IT UNTIL THEN!
YEAH, I'LL LET YOU EAT IT!
ALRIGHT! LET'S HAVE YOU FEED US THAT 'SEA MATSUTAKE MUSHROOM RICE'!

IF IT'S TOO DELICIOUS AND YOUR CHEEKS FALL OFF, IT'LL BE A PROBLEM, SO BRING A DOCTOR WHEN YOU COME TO EAT!
HEH!

BUT IN RETURN, IF YOU FEED US ANYTHING STRANGE, WE WON'T LET YOU OFF EASY!
EARLY SUMMER OR WHENEVER, I DON'T CARE!

11

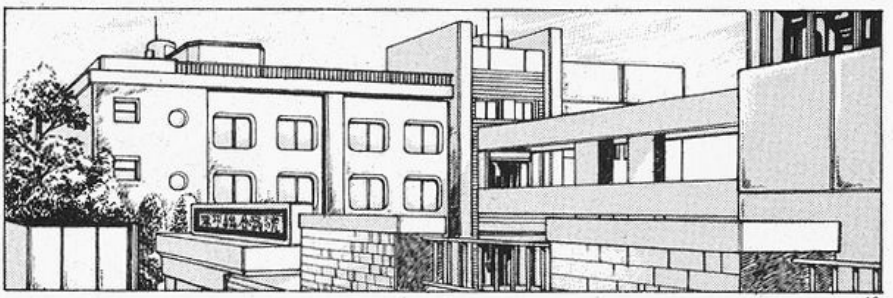
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THIS 'SEA MATSUTAKE MUSHROOM RICE' IS LIKE...


OO

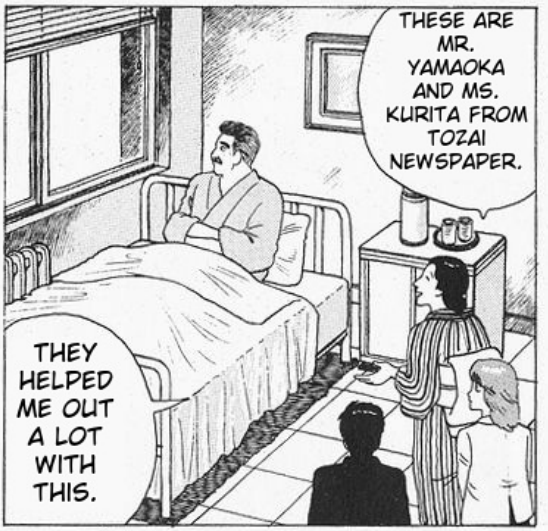
WOW, THAT SURE ESCALATED.

.....

I WANT TO BICKER WITH GINKO AGAIN...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, RIGHT NOW I JUST WANT TO...



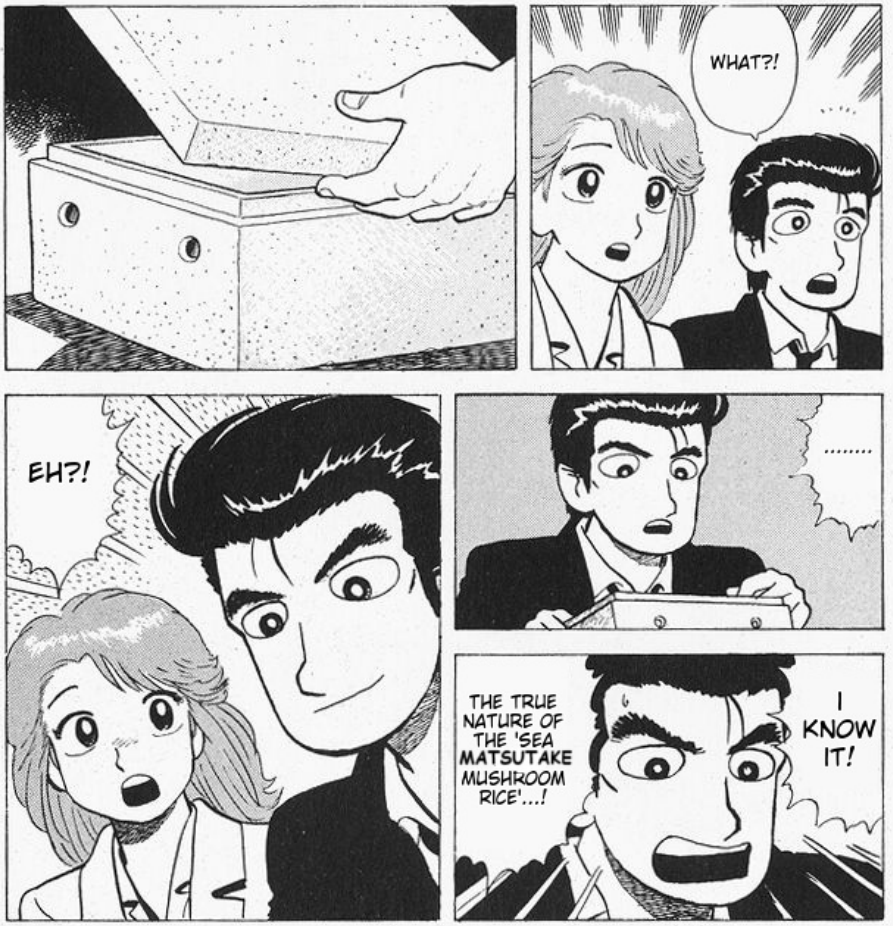
12


THESE ARE MR. YAMAOKA AND MS. KURITA FROM TOZAI NEWSPAPER.
THEY HELPED ME OUT A LOT WITH THIS.

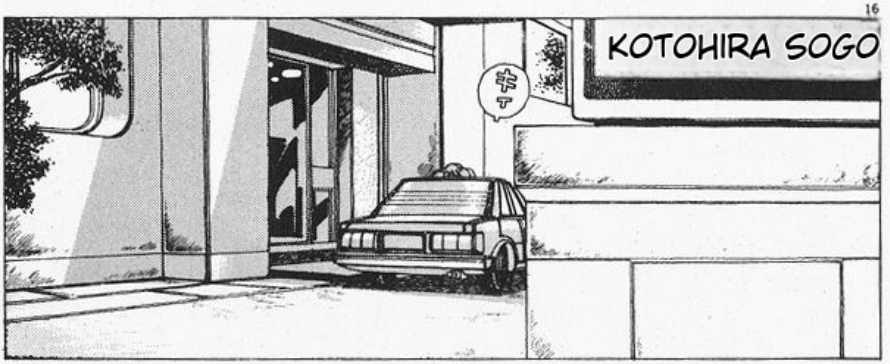
!
REMEMBER TOZAI NEWSPAPER?
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHY AM I HERE...?
THAT'S WEIRD...
IF REHAB DOESN'T GO WELL, THERE'S A RISK HE'LL TRANSITION TO SENILITY.
THAT SAID, THE IMPACT WAS SIGNIFICANT.
I DON'T THINK IT'LL DIRECTLY CAUSE MAJOR DAMAGE TO HIS MENTAL FACULTIES.
BOTH THE LOCATION AND THE EXTENT OF THE BLEEDING...
WHAT THE...?
WELL...

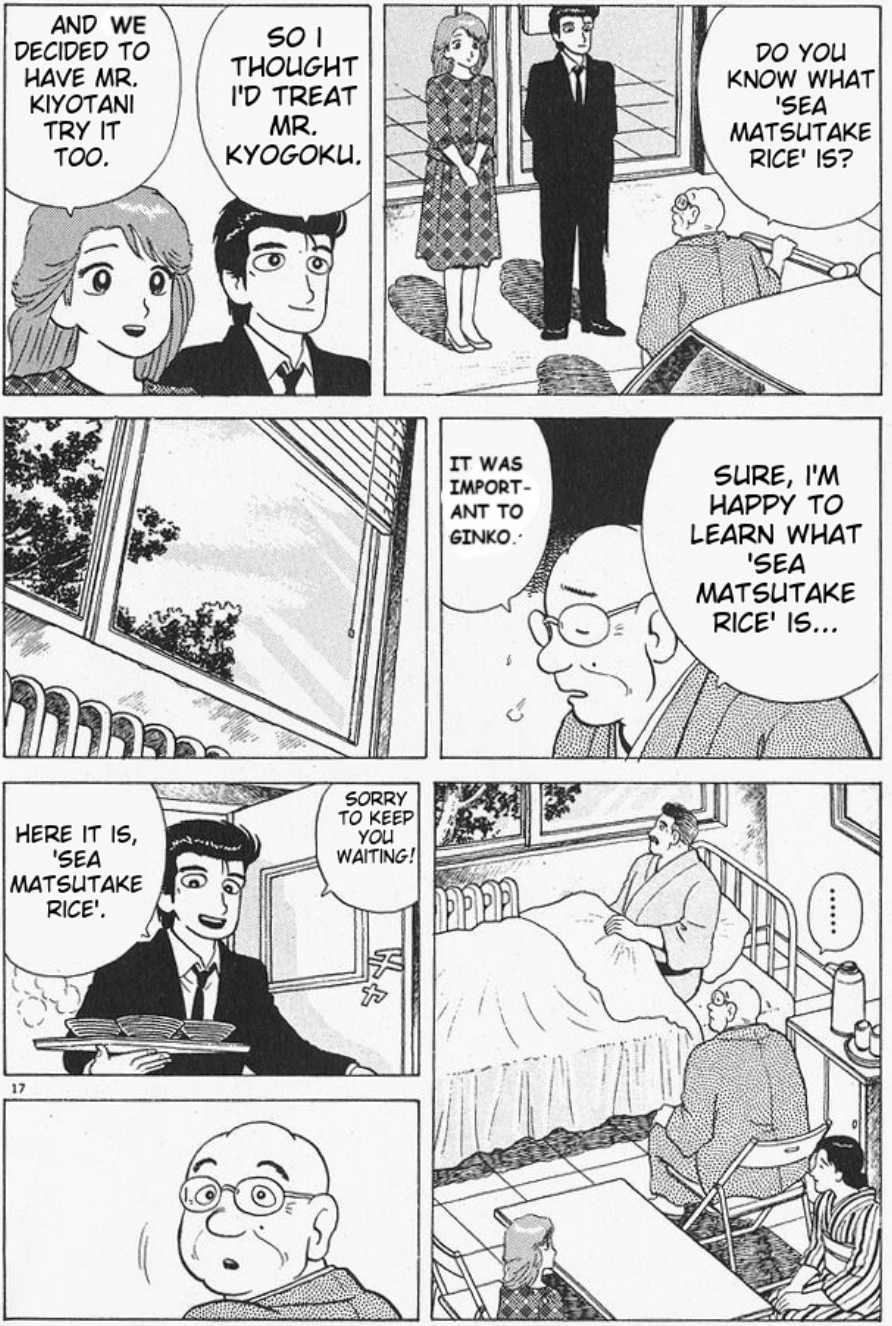
IF YOU CAN'T DO THAT, YOU'LL NO LONGER BE GINKO.
YOU CAN'T DRAW EITHER... AND YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY INTENTION OF DRAWING AGAIN.
AS YOU ARE NOW, EVEN IF YOU ARE ALIVE IN FORM, YOU ARE NO LONGER YOUR TRUE MASTER...
.....
14
WELL, TAME-SAN, SADA-SAN!
WE CAME TO VISIT YOU!
HELLO, MRS. KIYOTANI.
HELLO.
HE'S A FISHING BOAT CAPTAIN, NEAR MY PLACE...

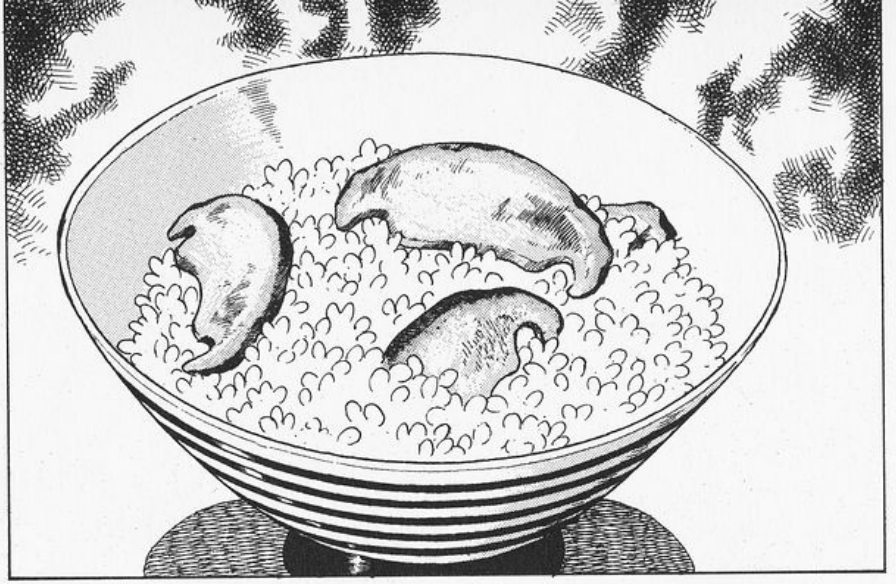
SENSEI IS SAID TO BE A MASTER PAINTER, BUT HE'S QUITE THE FISHERMAN TOO!
GINKŌ-SENSEI LOVES FISHING, AND WE OFTEN TAKE HIM OUT.
AH, YES, SENSEI KIYOTANI'S HOUSE WAS ON THE COAST IN HAYAMA, WASN'T IT?
REFUSING TO LISTEN TO ME BEGGING HIM TO STOP BECAUSE IT WAS COLD...
GINKŌ COLLAPSED WHEN HE STRIPPED STARK NAKED AND WAS ABOUT TO GO INTO THE SEA,
HUH...
AND HE FREE-DIVES AT THAT AGE.
ACCORDING TO KYŌGOKU-SAN, DIDN'T SENSEI KIYOTANI SAY HE'D SERVE 'MATSUTAKE MUSHROOM RICE FROM THE SEA'?
HE INVITED KYŌGOKU-SAN OVER, SO HE PROBABLY WANTED TO TREAT HIM TO SOMETHING HE'D CAUGHT HIMSELF...
15
SENSEI WAS GOING TO DIVE IN TO CATCH THIS!
I BROUGHT IT FOR YOU!


WHAT?!
EH?!
.....
THE TRUE NATURE OF THE 'SEA MATSUTAKE MUSHROOM RICE'...!
I KNOW IT!

16


KOTOHIRA SOGO
キャ

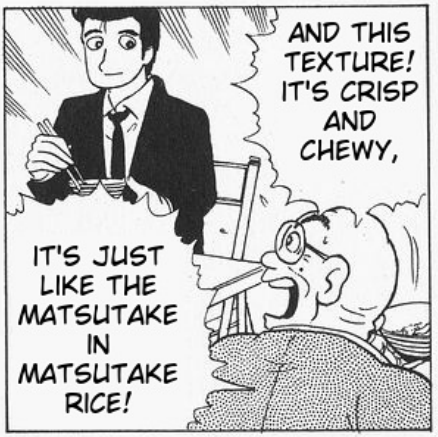

AND WE DECIDED TO HAVE MR. KIYOTANI TRY IT TOO.
SO I THOUGHT I'D TREAT MR. KYOGOKU.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT 'SEA MATSUTAKE RICE' IS?
IT WAS IMPORT-ANT TO GINKO.
SURE, I'M HAPPY TO LEARN WHAT 'SEA MATSUTAKE RICE' IS...
HERE IT IS, 'SEA MATSUTAKE RICE'.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
17
.....



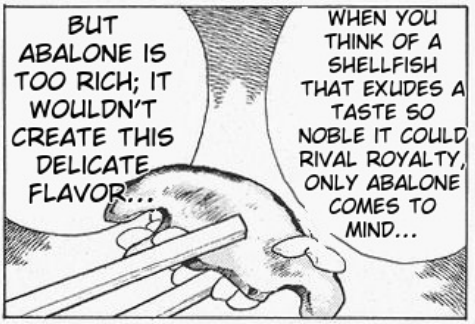
OH, AND THE AROMA IS NICE...

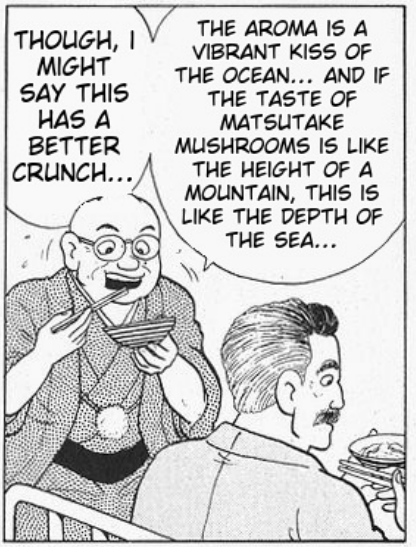
HUH... IT REALLY DOES LOOK LIKE MATSUTAKE RICE AT FIRST GLANCE...
ALTHOUGH, WHAT'S COOKED IN HERE IS A BIT BIGGER THAN MATSUTAKE...

18

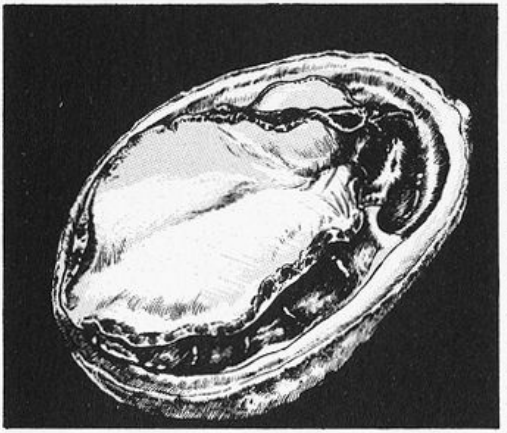

AND THIS TEXTURE! IT'S CRISP AND CHEWY,
IT'S JUST LIKE THE MATSUTAKE IN MATSUTAKE RICE!

IT'S A SHELL! BUT WHAT A WONDERFUL FLAVOR THIS SHELL HAS!?!
O-OH! IT'S DELICIOUS!


BUT ABALONE IS TOO RICH; IT WOULDN'T CREATE THIS DELICATE FLAVOR...
WHEN YOU THINK OF A SHELLFISH THAT EXUDES A TASTE SO NOBLE IT COULD RIVAL ROYALTY, ONLY ABALONE COMES TO MIND...

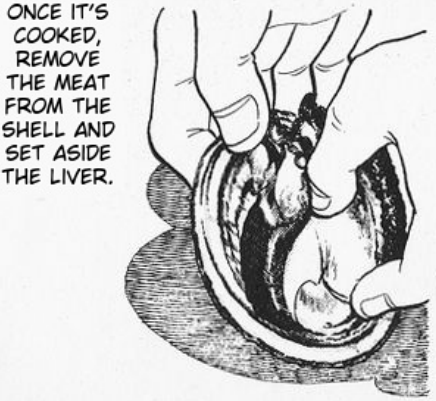

THOUGH, I MIGHT SAY THIS HAS A BETTER CRUNCH...
THE AROMA IS A VIBRANT KISS OF THE OCEAN... AND IF THE TASTE OF MATSUTAKE MUSHROOMS IS LIKE THE HEIGHT OF A MOUNTAIN, THIS IS LIKE THE DEPTH OF THE SEA...

WELL THEN, THIS MEANS...



IT'S THE TOP SHELL.

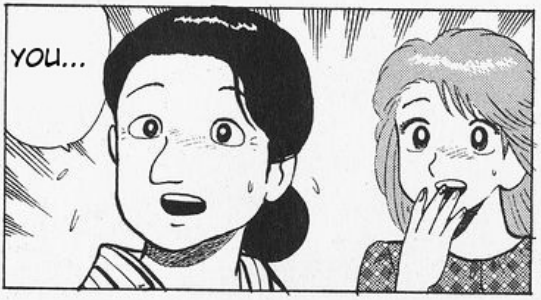
OH, IT'S THE TOP SHELL!


ONCE IT'S COOKED, REMOVE THE MEAT FROM THE SHELL AND SET ASIDE THE LIVER.

ADD MIRIN TO TASTE, AND GIVE IT A GENTLE SIMMER.
TAKE A LIVE TOP SHELL, AND DROWN IT IN PLENTY OF SAKE AND SOY SAUCE,

THAT'S WHY DR. KIYOTANI TOLD ME TO WAIT UNTIL EARLY SUMMER FOR 'SEA PINE MUSHROOM RICE.
IN EARLY SUMMER, THE ABALONE FROM THE SHONAN AREA BECOMES THE MOST DELICIOUS.
AND THAT'S HOW IT'S DONE.
SLICE IT THINLY AND COOK IT WITH RICE USING THE BROTH.
SEA PINE MUSHROOM RICE,' IT'S REALLY GOOD!
DELICIOUS! DELICIOUS! IT'S REALLY DELICIOUS!!
TO MAKE THIS 'SEA PINE MUSHROOM RICE,' I TRIED TO DIVE INTO THE OCEAN AND HAD A SEIZURE...
WAH-HAH-HAH-HAH!! HOW ABOUT THAT, KYOGOKU? I WIN!

TAMBA MATSUTAKE IS GOOD, BUT THE ABALONE'S DELICIOUSNESS IS ALSO SOMETHING ELSE!
BOW DOWN TO THE DELICIOUSNESS OF 'SEA MATSUTAKE RICE'!!

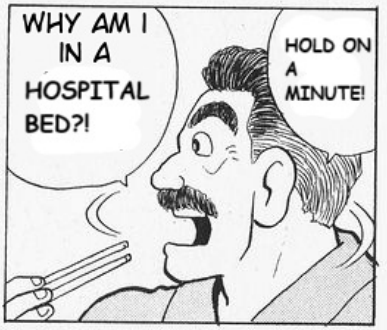

YOU...

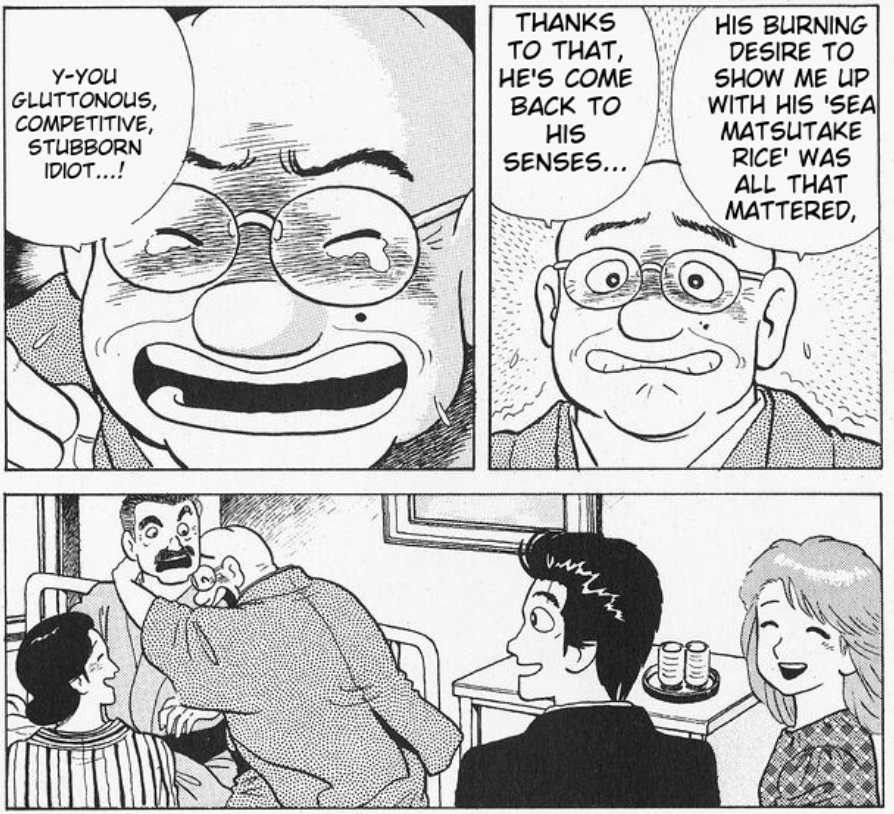
GINKO...!!
GAH...

HMM... KYOGOKU, WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?

21

YOU!


WHY AM I IN A HOSPITAL BED?!
HOLD ON A MINUTE!


Y-YOU GLUTTONOUS, COMPETITIVE, STUBBORN IDIOT...!
THANKS TO THAT, HE'S COME BACK TO HIS SENSES...
HIS BURNING DESIRE TO SHOW ME UP WITH HIS 'SEA MATSUTAKE RICE' WAS ALL THAT MATTERED,

OISHINBO, VOL. 17 - THE END -

美味(おい)しんぼ17　—餃子の春—

ビッグ コミックス

ISBN4-09-181407-7

1988年12月1日初版第1刷発行　（検印廃止）

著者　雁屋　哲
花咲アキラ

©Tetsu Kariya
Akira Hanasaki　1988

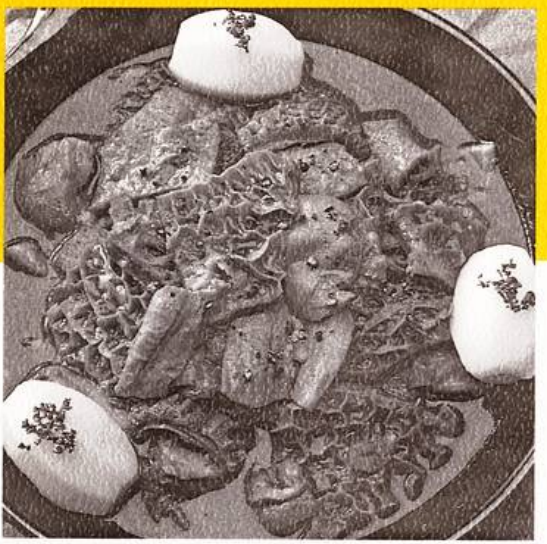
発行者　相賀徹夫

印刷所　凸版印刷株式会社

Printed in Japan

発行所　(101-01)東京都千代田区一ツ橋二の三の一
編集(230)5505
振替(東京8－200) TEL 業務(230)5331
販売(230)5749
株式会社小学館

●造本には、じゅうぶん注意しておりますが、万一落丁・乱丁などの不良品がありましたら、おとりかえいたします。●本書の一部または全部を無断で複写複製（コピー）することは法律で認められた場合を除き、著作者および出版者の権利の侵害になります。あらかじめ小社あて許諾を求めてください。



小学館